Beyond the Facsimile: Early English Books Online (EEBO) and the Text Creation Partnership

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Beyond the Facsimile: Early English Books Online (EEBO) and the Text Creation Partnership

Enriching Scholarship

May 7, 2012
Goals

• Understand the relationship between Early English Books Online and Text Creation Partnership
• Develop ability to “read” an interface: to think about, ask questions of, and make sense of what is being revealed or hidden by websites for digitized resources
• Understand what the Text Creation Partnership produces and some of the ways it can be used—as well as what it cannot do
• Share ideas for using these resources in research and teaching
Agenda

• Introductions (5 min)
• Background: What is the Text Creation Partnership? What is its relationship to EEBO? (10 min)
• Walk through/demo different ways to search the texts (25 min)
  • ProQuest’s EEBO
  • UM’s EEBO-TCP
  • Differences, similarities, preferences?
• Behind the scenes (25 min):
  • What does the TCP really produce?
  • What are the challenges and goals of this work? What purpose does it serve?
  • document analysis exercise
• Ideas/examples for teaching and research (20 min)
• Critical thinking: gaps and limitations of these resources (10 min)
• Questions/discussion (10 min)
• Evaluation (5 min)
Introductions

Who am I?
Rebecca Welzenbach, Text Creation Partnership Project Outreach Librarian

Who are you?

• Name
• Affiliation
• Do you already use EEBO or TCP? In what capacity?
• Any specific questions, concerns, or things you hope will be covered today?
Background: EEBO

• Contains more than 125,000 titles listed in Pollard & Redgrave’s Short-Title Catalogue (1475-1640) and Wing’s Short-Title Catalogue (1641-1700) and their revised editions, as well as the Thomason Tracts (1640-1661) and the Early English Books Tract Supplement

• Commercial product developed by ProQuest

• Purchased or licensed by libraries

• Grew out of Early English Books microfilm series

• Consists of scanned microfilm and (now) direct scans from books

• EEBO alone lets you search the MARC catalog records for each book and view the pages of the book. It does not provide full-text search capabilities

• Page images + searchable metadata

For more information: http://eebo.chadwyck.com.proxy.lib.umich.edu/about/about.htm
Background: EEBO-TCP

• More than 40,000 texts done so far. Goal is to complete ~70,000, or one edition of each unique work in the EEBO catalog

• Each page is keyed by hand (OCR doesn’t work; double/triple-keying) and mark-up added

• Product is a large set of searchable encoded text files that may be matched up with page images in EEBO for search and display, or put to other uses entirely

• Not-for-profit, library-based consortial project

• Libraries pay to support this work; gain immediate access to the output

• Text files belong to partner library institutions and will ultimately be made freely available to everyone

• Model has been replicated with ECCO- and Evans-TCP

For more information: http://textcreationpartnership.org

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Demo: ProQuest’s EEBO Interface

http://eebo.chadwyck.com.proxy.lib.umich.edu/

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Demo: ProQuest’s EEBO Interface

How does the Variant Spellings feature work?

The Variant spellings box appears on the Basic Search, Advanced Search and Periodicals Search screens. It is checked by default.

If you type a search term in the Keyword(s) box and the Variant spellings box is checked when you submit your search, you will automatically retrieve all instances of your search term and its early modern variant forms in EEBO. For example, if the box for Variant spellings is checked and you type the word murder in the Keyword(s) field, when you submit your search you will retrieve all occurrences of the word murder and its early modern variants murther, murderous, murder, and murther.

This will also work if you check the box and type search terms in other fields like Title keyword(s) and Imprint.

If you type a phrase in the Keyword(s) search field (for example Keyword(s): "so foul and fair a day") and the Variant spellings box is checked when you submit your search, your results will include instances of the phrase where the spelling varies (such as so foule and faire a day). Similarly, if you type a series of terms connected by Boolean or proximity operators in this field (for example jealous and green-eyed), your search will include all available spelling and typographic variants of each term (such as jealous, green-eyed, and green-eyed).

When typing a search expression that includes Truncation and wildcard operators (e.g. Keyword(s): je?lo?r*), you should uncheck the Variant spellings and Variant forms boxes.
Demo: ProQuest’s EEBO Interface


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Demo: ProQuest’s EEBO Interface

Catalog record only

Catalog record, images, illustrations, full text from TCP

Catalog record, images, illustrations

1. Hakluyt, Richard, 1552?-1616. (Q)
The principal navigations, voyages, traffickes and discoueries of the English nation made by sea or over land, to the remote and farthest distant quarters of the earth, at any time within the compass of these 1500. yeares: devised into three severall volumes, according to the positions of the regions, whereunto they were directed. ... / By Richard Hakluyt Master of Artes, and sometime student of Christ-Church in Oxford. , Imprinted at London : By George Bishop, Ralph Newberie and Robert Barker., 1590-1600. (Q)
Date: 1590-1600
Bib name / number: STC (2nd ed.) / 12625
Physical description: 3 v.
Copy from: Folger Shakespeare Library

2. Hakluyt, Richard, 1552?-1616. (Q)
The principal navigations, voyages, traffickes and discoueries of the English nation made by sea or over land, to the remote and farthest distant quarters of the earth, at any time within the compass of these 1600. yeares: devised into three severall volumes, according to the positions of the regions, whereunto they were directed. The first volume containeth the worthy discoueries, etc. of the English ... The second volume comprehendeth the principall navigations ... to the south and south-east parts of the world ... By Richard Hakluyt preacher, and sometime student of Christ-Church in Oxford. , Imprinted at London : By George Bishop, Ralph Newberie, and Robert Barker, Anno 1590-1600. (Q)
Date: 1590-1600
Bib name / number: STC (2nd ed.) / 12626a
Physical description: 3 v. ([24], 619, [1]); [16], 312, 204; [16], 888 p., folded plate
Copy from: Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery

3. Hakluyt, Richard, 1552?-1616. (Q)
The principal navigations, voyages and discoueries of the English nation made by sea or over land, to the most remote and farthest distant quarters of the earth at any time within the compass of these 1500. yeares: devised into three severall parts, according to the positions of the regions whereunto they were directed. ... Whereunto is added the last most renowned English navigation, round about the whole globe of the earth. By Richard Hakluyt Master of Artes, and sometime student of Christ-church in Oxford. , Imprinted at London : By George Bishop and Ralph Newberie, deputies to Christopher Barker, printer to the Queens most excellent Majestie, 1589. (Q)
Date: 1589
Bib name / number: STC (2nd ed.) / 12825
Physical description: [16], 501, [1], 506-643, [12], 644-825, [12] p., folded plate
Copy from: Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery

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Demo: ProQuest’s EEBO Interface

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE MY SINGULAR GOOD LORD, THE LORD CHARLES HOWARD, Earl of Nottingham, Baron of Effingham, Knight of the noble Order of the Garter, Lord high Admiral of England, Ireland, and Wales, &c. one of her Maiesties most honourable priuate Counsell.

Right Honourable and very good Lord, after I had long since published in print many Navigationes and Discoveries of Strangers in divers languages, as well here at London, as in the city of Paris, during my two voyages abroad in France, with the worthie Knight Sir Edward Stafford your brother in law, her Maiesties most prudent and careful Ambassador with the French King: and had ended on still further and farther in the sweet study of the history of Cappadocia, I began at last to conceive, that with diligent application, some thing might be gathered which might commend our nation for their high course and singular activity in the Search and Discoveries of the most unknown quarters of the world. Hence, seeing no man to stop forth to undertake the recording of so many memorable actions, and every man to follow his private affairs, the ardent love of my country descanted all difficulties, and as it were with a sharper good provoked me and thrust me forward into this most troublesome and painful action. And after great charges and infinite cares, after many watchings, toils, and travailes, and warning out of my weakly body, at length I have collected three severall Volumes of the English Navigationes, Travellures, and Discoveries, to strange, remote, and farthest distant countries. Which works of mine, I have not included within the compass of things only done in these latter days, so as though I had nothing worthie of memory, but remaining still by the grace of God and our blessed Saviour, have brought to light many very rare and worthy monuments, which long have lain miserably scattered in mustie corners, &c. ravished in hidden in miste darkness, and very little known to the greatest part, to have been buried in perpetual oblivion. The first Volume of this workes I have thus for the present brought to light, reserving the other two until the next spring, when by Gods grace they shall come to light. In this season looking at 


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Demo: University of Michigan’s EEBO-TCP Interface
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Which meets your needs? Try it...

In both interfaces...
• Try a keyword/full text search for “cookery”
• Try searching within verse for “love”

To make things more interesting, add these additional variables:
• Try it with and without spelling/form variants allowed in EEBO
• Try changing the limits in EEBO (all items, full text only, etc.)

What do you find?
• Questions?
• Frustrations?
• Inconsistencies?
• Do you find you have a clear preference for one over the other?
Different search results

1. A. W. (2)
A book of cockery: very necessary for all such as delight therein. / Gathered by A.W. / Printed at London: by Edward Alde. / 1587
Date: 1587
Bib name / number: STC (2nd ed.) / 24896
Physical description: 20 [i.e. 21] fols. 2 cols.
Copy from: New York Public Library (New York, N.Y.)

2. A. W. (2)
A book of cockery: Very necessary for all such as delight therein. Gathered by A. W. / At London: Printed by Edward Alde. / 1591
Date: 1591
Bib name / number: STC (2nd ed.) / 24897
Physical description: [1], 26 leaves
Copy from: Bodleian Library

3. Addison, Lansalet, 1632-1703. (2)
West Barbary, or, A short narrative of the revolutions of the kingdoms of Fez and Morocco with an account of the present customs, sacred, civil, and domestic / by Lansaet Addison ... / Printed at the Theater in Oxford, and are to be sold by John Wines. / 1671
Date: 1671
Bib name / number: Wing / A382
Copy from: Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery

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4. Acian, 3rd comp. (2)
Cassius Acianus. An various metaray. London: Printed for Thomas Driyng,
**Which one do I use?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ProQuest’s EEBO Interface</th>
<th>University of Michigan’s TCP Interface</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• search more than 120,000 books, whether or not they have full text</td>
<td>• Only search works with keyed full text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Use fuzzy spelling or variant searching</td>
<td>• Get most up-to-date batch of texts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Easily download/print sections of a work as a PDF</td>
<td>• Some more precise searching options (e.g. proximity, sorting by frequency)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Both can:** move between text and image view, display table of contents, restrict search to certain areas or kinds of text (e.g. letters, drama, verse, etc.)

**Big picture:** many of the same capabilities, some differences. Use what you’re comfortable with and what meets your needs. If something seems missing from one, try the other. Be aware that both—and any interface—will cause things to look and behave slightly differently, even with the same data underneath
What’s going on behind the scenes?

Two key components:

• Accurately transcribed text
• Structural markup: XML (more precisely, SGML)

That is: tags that explicitly describe the structure of a document, allowing a computer to “read” and understand the relationship of parts of the text to one another, just as we have learned to do when looking at a page.
SGML Markup

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Document analysis exercise

- Pick a printout or several
- Work in small groups
- Identify elements of the document’s structure: what can you tell by looking at the page that a computer wouldn’t know? What information would you want to have pulled out?
- Do you agree about what is important to tag, and how to categorize it?
What is the point of all of this?

• An interface/program can only work with what information you give it in the first place
• Our goal is to produce a lot of high-quality data that can more or less be generally agreed upon. This gives a search engine something useful to grab onto, but also leaves room for further enhancements
• We turn wheat into flour, and hope you’ll make bread
Examples of new projects built on TCP data

- Specialized scholarly editions: [The Holinshed Project](#)
- Alternative search/display interfaces: [PhiloLogic @NU](#)
- Additional analysis: [Monk Workbench](#)
- Thematic groupings/websites: [Witches in Early Modern England](#)
- For readable, scholarly comments on text analysis: [Ted Underwood’s blog](#)
EEBO-TCP in the classroom

• Sample assignments: http://www.lib.umich.edu/tcp/eebo/scholarship.html

• 2012 Spring Term course on history of taste: mining EEBO- and ECCO-TCP for recipes

• Document analysis?

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Critical Thinking: Reading the Database

What problems, gaps, shortcomings do you see? (in the interfaces we looked at or in the data underneath)

What would you/do you warn your students about when encouraging them to use EEBO or TCP?
Further questions/discussion

• Please get in touch if we can be of help with your research, or with an assignment in your classroom (happy to give targeted overviews/presentations)

• Thanks and good luck!

• Please fill out the evaluation: http://www.umich.edu/~teachtec/es.html