THE NEW CURIOSITY BOX: HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING AND THE HUMANITIES

http://www.matrix.msu.edu

Dean Rehberger
Director, Matrix
Associate Professor, WRAC
Adjunct Professor, History
Adjunct Curator, MSU Museum
Matrix, Michigan State University
409 Natural Science Building
East Lansing MI 48824-1120
Direct: 517-353-4969
Main: 517-355-9300
Fax (517)-432-8363
http://www.matrix.msu.edu
dean.rehberger@matrix.msu.edu
MISSION

MATRIX: The Center for Humane, Arts, Letters and Social Sciences Online at Michigan State University seeks to advance critical understanding and promote access to knowledge through world-class research in humanities technology. Humanities technology brings together the humanist’s quest for deeper understanding of human nature, thought, expression, and behavior with the tools, methods and applications of computer science, engineering, and information and library sciences.

- Broaden Preservation and Access to Cultural Heritage Resources
- Transform Teaching and Learning
- Advance Professional Networking Within and Across Disciplines
- Promote Public Involvement and Improve Digital Equity in Outreach
- Foster New Scholars and Scholarship
WHAT DO WE DO?
American Black Journal, originally titled Colored People's Time, went on the air in 1968 during a time of social and racial turmoil. The original mission was to increase the availability and accessibility of media relating to African-American experiences in order to encourage greater involvement from Detroit citizens in working to resolve community problems. The show has continued on the air consistently since then, documenting over thirty years of Detroit history from African American perspectives. The collection includes interviews, round-table discussions, field-produced features and artistic performances featuring African Americans, many of who are among the nation's most recognized and controversial figures, and provides the visual and audio context of key debates and discussions surrounding African American history, culture, and politics.

Thanks to funding through the National Endowment of the Humanities, Detroit Public Television and Michigan State University have collaborated to digitize and preserve the ABJ shows, and to bring them online here as a significant resource on African American history.

The ABJ programs represent a wide variety of African-American viewpoints on issues important to the city of Detroit, the state of Michigan, and the nation as whole, ranging from labor unrest in the automobile industry, to the urban civil disturbances in Detroit and across the nation riots of 1967, the emergence of outspoken African American political leaders, and the explosion of Motown music.
CVET

The Community Video Education Trust (CVET) in Cape Town is building a digital archive of videos taken in South Africa in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The raw footage available on this website documents anti-apartheid demonstrations, speeches, mass funerals, celebrations, and interviews with activists. Videos capture the activism of trade unions, students and political organizations, including the activities of the United Democratic Front.

The CVET archive is a unique, publicly accessible video record of the peak of popular resistance against apartheid.

Browse Genres

Celebrations
Demonstrations
Drama
Finished films
Funerals
Interviews
Meetings
Other
Seminars
Speeches
Vigils

Meeting of UDF with speech by Archie Gumede

Watch the Video
Browse Featured
INTRODUCTION
In early 1936, Neil Leighton, a political science professor at the University of Michigan-Flint, went to an academic conference at Duke University. While there, he ran into Professor Laurence Goodwyn...
(more>></a>

ORGANIZATION
Working on the line at General Motors in Flint was a job many men needed desperately in the 1930's, but it was also tremendously difficult. Terrible working conditions, combined with unfair and devious payroll practices, made the auto plants of Depression-era Flint into ripe locations for union organization...(more>)

STRIKE
On the night of December 30, the majority of employees who had been working their shift at Fisher 1 and Fisher 2 left the plants. Some left only to celebrate the New Year and returned later. Others took up picket and food-gathering activities on the outside... (more>)

AFTERMATH
The strike was settled on February 11, 1937. The UAW did not win all of its demands, but gained an agreement from General Motors to recognize the union in the struck plants and to allow the union exclusive rights for six months to organize in the other plants. The company also agreed not to discriminate...(more>)

INTERACTIVE
AUDIO TIMELINE
STRIKE MAP
SLIDESHOW
Good Afternoon! Tuesday, September 22nd, 2009

“I’ve been a subscriber for years so I owe H-net much. Its discussions have become increasingly rich; its perspectives, sharper and more interesting; I am always learning.”

H-Net is an international interdisciplinary organization of scholars and teachers dedicated to developing the enormous educational potential of the Internet and the World Wide Web. Our edited lists and web sites publish peer reviewed essays, multimedia materials, and discussion for colleagues and the interested public. The computing heart of H-Net resides at MATRIX: The Center for Humane Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences Online, Michigan State University, but H-Net officers, editors and subscribers come from all over the globe. Tell me more.

Please help H-Net keep its services free and accessible by participating in our donations campaign. You can donate online through a VeriSign secure site, by mail, or by telephone.

Partner Programs for Online Book Vendors
H-Net readers can now earn money for H-Net by purchasing titles directly from vendor links at our site. Learn how on our reviews page.

H-Net List Preservation Project
The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) has awarded a grant supporting the preservation of the H-Net electronic mailing list archives. For information about the project, visit the H-Net list preservation site.

Recent Announcements
- H-Net academic announcements posted to the web 2009-09-09 - 2009-09-09: H-Net Announcements <annonce@MAIL.H-Net.MSU.EDU>
- H-Net academic announcements posted to the web 2009-09-07 - 2009-09-09: H-Net Announcements <annonce@MAIL.H-Net.MSU.EDU>
- more announcements...

Recent Reviews
Reviewer: Eric Limbach
Title: Synergies in Minority Protection: European and International Law Perspectives
Author: Kristin Henrard, Robert Dunbar, eds.
Reviewer: Joel Kropf
Title: Policing the Wild North-West: A Sociological Study of the Provincial Police in Alberta and Saskatchewan, 1905-1932

The Organization of American Historians is a proud sponsor of H-Net, and publisher of the Journal of American History, whose current issue considers "Abraham Lincoln at 200".
Welcome! The Quilt Index is a growing research and reference tool designed to provide unprecedented access to information and images about quilts held in private and public hands.

The Quilt Index, piloted with quilts inventoried by four state documentation projects, is now expanding to include museum and library quilt collections. More about current contributors.

The Quilt Index was conceived and developed by The Alliance for American Quilts in partnership with Michigan State University’s MATRIX: Center for Humane Arts, Letters and Social Sciences Online and the Michigan State University Museum. The project has been supported in part by major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. More about project.

Please Note: No images in the Quilt Index can be reproduced in any manner without written permission.
Mary Gasperik's Masterpiece Quilts

As Mary Gasperik matured as a quilter, her creativity with the tools, techniques and patterns of quiltmaking grew. These three quilts marry remarkable needlework expertise with fluid innovation in patterns, colors and arrangements to produce original masterpiece works.

Quilts

014 Hungarian Harvest Festival
066 Road to Recovery
034 Colonial Quilting Bee

014 Hungarian Harvest Festival 1939-1940

This quilt, finished in time for the May 1940 Detroit News Quilt Show, is a family favorite. Gasperik began work on this project as early as 1938, when she sent a “Hungarian Girl” sample block to Edith B. Crumb to share with fellow members of the Friday afternoon Quilt Club Corner, who gathered weekly in the basement of the Detroit News radio broadcast building. The exquisite embroidery skills so well displayed on this quilt reflect...
South Africa's successful struggle for freedom and democracy is one of the most dramatic stories of our time. The racial tyranny of apartheid ended with a negotiated transition to a non-racial democracy, but not without considerable personal cost to thousands of men, women, and young people who were involved.

South Africa: Overcoming Apartheid, Building Democracy presents first-hand accounts of this important political movement. Interviews with South African activists, raw video footage documenting mass resistance and police repression, historical documents, rare photographs, and original narratives tell this remarkable story.

Featured

Video
Stanley John Abrahams, May 26, 2004

Image
Homelands (Bantustans)

Document
Natives Land Act of 1913: Specific Case of Evictions
Unit 5. Reigniting the Struggle - The 1970s through the Release of Nelson Mandela

Black Consciousness is an attitude of the mind and a way of life, the most positive call to emanate from the black world for a long time. Its essence is the realisation by the black man of the need to rally together with his brothers around the cause of their oppression—the blackness of their skin—and to operate as a group to rid themselves of the shackles that bind them to perpetual servitude.

Steve Biko, “The Quest for a True Humanity,” I Write What I Like, 1978

After a decade of relative quiescence due to the government crackdown on liberation movements in the early 1960s, black workers and students reigned resistance against apartheid in the 1970s. The apartheid regime responded with a mix of harsh repression and modest reforms inside South Africa and violent attacks on the liberation movements and their allies outside the country. Yet a combination of growing protest, international support, and significant changes in the political context of the region changed the balance of power by 1990, when Nelson Mandela was released from prison and negotiations for a new democratic South Africa began in earnest.

Unrest among workers in the manufacturing sector erupted into wildcat strikes in January 1973 in Durban. Discontent was high among the city’s 165,000 African factory workers, whose lack of union rights was made worse by the combined effect of high inflation and shortage of manufacturing jobs. As one group of workers won wage increases, others would walk out on strike. Stoppages soon spread to factories on the Rand and the Eastern Cape. Unable to stop the strikes or replace trained workers in high demand, companies accepted strikers’ demands in order to restart production. As a result of the successful strikes of 1973, independent labor unions emerged, which further politicized industrial workplaces and forced the government to extend some labor rights to Africans (e.g. the right to strike), thus conceding the central importance of black workers to apartheid capitalism.

In addition to more militant workers, new youth and Black Consciousness groups developed in South Africa in the late 1960s and expanded their influence in the early 1970s. These young men and women were informed by the experiences of African liberation struggles, especially in Mozambique, Angola, and Zimbabwe, and by black theology and the Black Power movement in the United States. The major figure of this movement was Stephen Bantu Biko, whose inspired leadership of the Black Consciousness Movement and death at the hands of police in 1977 made him a martyr. Calling for self-help, racial pride, and psychological...
About this project

This is the KORA project ("kora")

This project was registered on SourceForge.net on Dec 7, 2007, and is described by the project team as follows:

KORA is a database driven, online digital repository that allows institutions to ingest, manage, and deliver digital objects and their corresponding metadata.

About SourceForge.net:

SourceForge.net is the world’s largest provider of hosting for Open Source software development projects. SourceForge.net provides a variety of services to projects, including a download mirror network, collaborative development tools (like CVS and Subversion), and tools to support discussion and support. These services are provided to projects and their end-users free-of-charge.

About Open Source:

Of benefit to users, Open Source software is licensed so you can download and use the software free-of-charge. The source code for this software is made available free-of-charge, you (or a programmer you hire) can make changes to this software to better meet your needs, and you can release your changed code back to the community passing the benefit on to other users.

The exact license terms used by this project on their project summary page and in the licensing documents included in their downloads.

Developers

Join this project:

To join this project, please contact the project administrators of this project, as shown on the project summary page.
Ajami in the Senegambia

by Fallou Ngom

Ajami is the centuries-old practice of using modified Arabic scripts to write non-Arabic languages. It comes from the Arabic word for foreigner or non-Arab and is used widely throughout West Africa for both religious and secular writings.

Ajami in the Senegambia makes accessible over 20 handwritten ajami manuscripts produced by West African scholars. The texts contain insightful discussions on mutual understanding between people of different faiths, races and ethnic backgrounds in Senegambia. They capture several Senegambian Muslim scholars’ views on peaceful cohabitation, moderation and non-violence that have been a prominent feature of Senegambian communities.

Manuscripts appear in discrete scholar galleries where users can:

- Examine the original texts
- Watch and listen to scholars read/recite documents in four African languages including Wolof, Mandinka, Soila Fofii, and three varieties of Haar-pula(a)/
- Read transcriptions and translations of manuscripts in African languages, English, and French
- Experience a synchronized multimedia presentation of the manuscripts, video recitations, and translation/transliterations of featured ajami texts

Diversity & Tolerance in the Islam of West Africa

Click to learn more about Serigne N'dame Diop

Wolof from Diourbel, Senegal
Understanding Islam
Written By: Mouhammadou Thierno Dème
Date recorded: 2006
In this text, Mouhammadou Dème draws from the Qur’ān and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad to discuss issues including compassion, the judgment day, responsibilities of Muslims, and finally Islam's view of suicide and the value of human life.

Compassion in Islam

Select Transcript:
Fula - Pulaar | English | French | No Transcript

Transcript and Annotations
Bismi l-Rahman l-Rahim
Yeewtoore Cerno Muhammad Dem
Onon musiide toowbe tooowbe caggal yettude Alla e nuladdo, saalibaabu alehyi wassalamm, men salimini on saliminaango lisaam. Yo jam e kisal wanu e mon. Meden koollaa on diiina men.

Lislaam ko diiina mbo ngannduda, Alla subanii tagoore nde foof. Alla nell ni nibaabu gilaa Aacama haa e Muhammad, yoo jam e kisal wanu e mabbë, jooma winndere. Jomirraawo teedudo tooowdo oo wiil e deftere Qur’ān omo haaide, jomirraawo oon wiil "mi nelaanima aal Muhammad, si wonaa yuurneende wonnande tagoore nde". Diina islam na renndii gedeeli keewdi, ina heen gooyfinde, fâde. Alla won joonraado gooto potoo reweede. Mo nganndudaal alaa [...]

1 of 9
The Mysteries of Lam Qua: Medical Portraiture in China 1836 - 1855

Gallery:

Yang She
Wan Waekae
Leang Ashing
Choo Yhleang
Patient unknown
Lew Akin
Peter Parker portrait
Po Ashing (before surgery)
Hoo Loo Choo
Kwan Nanking
Calculus Vesico-Urethra
Patient Unknown (possibly Chang Achum)
Gingall Ball
Woo Pun
Vesical Calculus -- Chinese Collection
Po Ashing (after surgery)
Vesical Calculus (group)
HPC & HUMANITIES
Two issues

- Qualitative vs. Quantitative
- Proliferation of Media
Qualitative  ↔  Quantitative
CHAPITRE 7

DES MOTS QUI REPRESENTENT LES OBJETS
DE NOS PERCEPTIONS

Les mots qui représentent les objets de nos perceptions, sont
les noms, les articles, les comparatifs, les pronoms, les pré-
positions, et les adverbes.

1. DES NOMS

On a vu dans le ch. 3. que les différents êtres qui sont les objets
de nos perceptions ont des déterminations permanentes, et des dé-
terminations variables. Ces différentes déterminations sont l'origine
de la division des noms en substantifs et en adjectifs, les noms
substantifs désignent les assemblages des propriétés permanentes,
et les adjectifs les propriétés variables. Je dis que c'est la leur
origine; et c'est effectivement celle de leur dénomination et leur
veritable signification metaphysique. Mais la grammaire en fait
encore un autre usage lequel a pris aussi sa source dans la meta-
physique, car tout y est fondé et surtout la grammaire. On a cou-
tume de définir en metaphysique la substance ce qui subsiste par
soi même, et on a transporté cette définition (que je ne prétends
dans la grammaire. Ainsi on a nommé substantifs
tous les mots qui subsistent par eux mêmes dans le discours soit
qui désignent les assemblages des propriétés permanentes soit
qui désignent les propriétés variables. Un adjectif devient
donc un substantif dans le discours en supprimant le sujet
auquel on le rapporte. Ainsi ladjectif rouge devient substantif
dans cette phrase; le rouge fatigue la vue, de même, les substantifs
deviennent adjectifs quand on les rapporte à un sujet quelconque.
Ainsi le substantif père devient adjectif dans le vers, dans ces
moments un père est toujours père. (Enfant prodigue) On voit
par là que les substantifs de la grammaire ne désignent pas tou-
jours de veritables substances, ni les adjectifs des accidents. Et
c'est à quoy il faut bien prendre garde, car en les confondant on
est tombé dans une infinité d'erreurs, comme de dire P. E. que
la verdue d'un arbre pourrait devenir ce que les philosophes apel-
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

CHAPTER I

BOYHOOD OF LINCOLN

The subject of this memoir is revered by multitudes of his countrymen as the preserver of their commonwealth. This reverence has grown with the lapse of time and the accumulation of evidence. It is blended with a peculiar affection, seldom bestowed upon the memory of statesmen. It is shared today by many who remember with no less affection how their own fathers fought against him. He died with every circumstance of tragedy, yet it is not the accident of his death but the purpose of his life that is remembered.

Readers of history in another country cannot doubt that the praise so given is rightly given; yet any bare record of the American Civil War may leave them wondering why it has been so unquestioningly accorded. The position and task of the American President in that crisis cannot be understood from those of other historic rulers or historic leaders of a people; and it may seem
In a similar vein, the National Association of Broadcasters sponsored a study which tried to prove that cross-media ownership produces better, "mainstream" media. An executive for a cross-media company claimed that ownership of newspapers, radio stations, and television stations allows greater control over content and increased efficiency.

Are the mass media free to accept or reject advertising as they wish? As the cigarette example proves, the broadcast media may be forbidden to accept advertisements for certain products. Except for the requirements of the fairness doctrine and the equal time rule, however, they may.

casters he consulted. "Why don't you get interested in ice hockey?" one sympathetic radio man suggested. "We cover that all the time."

Every day hundreds of Mrs. Greens and Mr. Hendersons across the country discover to their surprise that they are unable to influence the content of the mass media. Control over the flow of information is exer-
Appendix E: Sample Quilt Images by Authorship Group

1. Beachy/Yoder/Kauffman Illinois Amish family quilts, 1850-1929 – refining salient features that reflect cultural similarities in authorship across ethnic, religious, family and community groups of creators.

2. Michigan quilter Mary Schafer, 1930s – refining salient features of an individual quilter with a distinctive style variation.
3. Crazy Quilts by Lottie Enix -- refining salient features of a distinctive overall style popular nationwide

4. Published Pattern by Eveline Foland -- refining salient features of a published pattern in quilts created by multiple creators
PROLIFERATION OF MEDIA
IN HOOVER WE TRUSTED
NOW WE'RE BUSTED
PART I. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

1. Practical Contexts and Theoretical Frameworks for Teaching Complexity with Digital Role-Play Simulations
   Kent Portney and Steve Cohen

2. A Model for Teaching with Digital Role-Play Simulations
   Dean Rebberger

3. The Curricular Role for Understanding Social Decisions
   Steve Cohen

PART II. SIMULATIONS IN USE AND IN PROGRESS

   Ken O. McGraw and John E. Williams

   Kent E. Portney, Steve Cohen, Jerry Goldman, and Sandy Simpson

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PROJECTS
MONK is a digital environment designed to help humanities scholars discover and analyze patterns in the texts they study. The MONK project has been generously supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, from 2007-2009. All code produced by the project is open source. MONK has a publicly available instance with texts contributed by Indiana University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Virginia, and Martin Mueller at Northwestern University:
The ReACH workshop series was funded by the AHRC Arts and Humanities e-Science Initiative.

Researching e-Science Analysis of Census Holdings

Workshop Series Summary

e-Science allows large datasets to be searched and analysed quickly, efficiently, and in complex and novel ways. Little application has been made of the processing power of grid technologies to humanities data, due to lack of available datasets, and little understanding of or access to e-Science technologies. The ReACH workshop series investigated the potential application of grid computing to a large dataset of interest to historians, humanists, digital consumers, and the general public: historical census records.

The ReACH project, based in the School of Library, Archive, and Information Studies at UCL, worked in close collaboration with:

- **The National Archives**, who select, preserve and provide access to, and advice on, historical records, e.g. the censuses of England and Wales 1841-1901 (and also the Isle of Man, Channel Islands and Royal Navy censuses)
- **Ancestry.co.uk**, who own a massive dataset of census holdings worldwide, and who have digitized the censuses of England and Wales under license from The National Archives
- **UCL Research Computing**, the UK’s Centre for Excellence in networked computing.

Other experts in history, archives, genealogy, computing science, and humanities computing were also asked to contribute to the invitation only workshop series. We have also had considerable advice and support from the The Arts and Humanities e-Science Support Centre.
Language Visualization
and Multilayer Text Analysis
High Performance Computing in the Arts (HiPArt)

The Scientific Computing and Visualization group will be participating in Boston Cyberarts Festival 2009 with a virtual environment, Unnatural Disasters, and with the panel discussion, Navigating Cyberworlds: Creative Practice in Virtual Reality.

Unnatural Disasters

Unnatural Disasters explores the themes of financial meltdown, interspecies conflict, cultural disaster and planetary exhaustion. It is a new work by Boston University College of Fine Arts students. It will be shown on Boston University’s Deep Vision Display Wall, a 15’x8’, high-resolution, 12-tile, rear-projected, passive stereoscopic display system with 8-way directional sound. Visitors will wear 3D glasses and navigate with a game controller.
DIGITAL HUMANITIES & ORAL HISTORY

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Dean Rehberger
Director, Matrix
Associate Professor, WRAC
Adjunct Professor, History
Adjunct Curator, MSU Museum
Matrix, Michigan State University
409 Natural Science Building
East Lansing MI 48824-1120
Direct: 517-353-4969
Main: 517-355-9300
Fax (517)-432-8363
http://www.matrix.msu.edu
dean.rehberger@matrix.msu.edu