

Alabama Digital

ADHC

Humanities Center

June 1, 2013 - May 31, 2014

MISSION

The Alabama Digital Humanities Center (ADHC) offers faculty, staff, and advanced students both resources and opportunities to explore Digital Humanities work, and to discover ways in which it can support and enhance their research and pedagogy. Our core team is available to consult with members of the UA community who are considering embarking upon Digital Humanities projects, and once we have a clear understanding of their research and/or teaching goals, we will set up a collaboration in which we provide appropriate support and guidance ranging from technical skills and equipment, to the creation of project teams so that faculty and students can work with metadata librarians and web technology specialists to make their projects come to fruition.

FACTS & FIGURES 2013/14



4 Invited Speakers



7 Workshops Offered



8 Brown Bag Discussions



326 People Attending
ADHC Events



18 Projects Supported



27 Faculty and Graduate
Students Engaged



+1,000 People Using
The ADHC



+750 Consultation Hours



OUTREACH IN 2013/14



The ADHC hosted the first THATCamp Alabama August 9 & 10, 2013. This informal un-conference event was jointly planned and executed by individuals from the University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Montevallo, and Auburn University. The response was overwhelmingly positive drawing in 100 attendees from around the state and region.



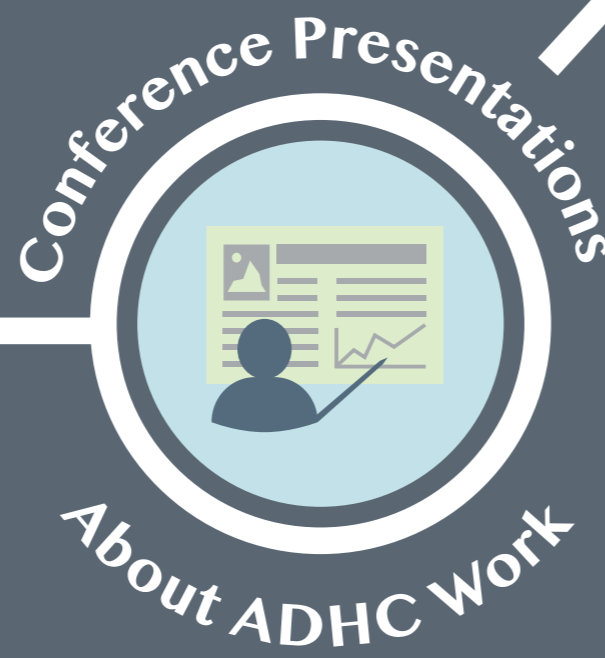
In April 2014 the ADHC hosted an all-day Open House event to showcase our projects and resources to faculty and graduate students, in order to encourage more members of our community to participate in Digital Humanities work, whether in their research or pedagogy. We have since worked with faculty on three different websites for classes in Art History and History for the Spring 2014 and May semesters, and look forward to collaborating on pedagogical Digital Humanities initiatives in Fall 2014 in subjects including environmental history, early modern literature, and Native American history. We are also reaching out to start new ventures in topic modelling, network mapping, geographic charting, and digital exhibits of special collections materials starting in summer 2014.



Brown bag discussions at the ADHC were attended by over 70 people, and covered a broad array of topics including the creation of digital editions and photographic exhibits, as well as introducing our community to the role of metadata and other critical intellectual structures underpinning Digital Humanities projects. Many of these sessions involved members of the ADHC community sharing their work on digital projects, allowing us all to benefit from their learning experiences.



The ADHC saw the University of Alabama's Scholar's Institute as an ideal opportunity for outreach to new members of our community, both in Tuscaloosa and also other campuses of the UA system, and in May 2014 we presented a poster there entitled 'The ADHC: Uniting Researchers and Practitioners Through Technology.' We were able to connect with many people from across campus, both to showcase our current Digital Humanities projects, and also to lay the groundwork for new partnerships in the future.



Two of our community members gave presentations at national conferences about the Digital Humanities work which they are doing at the ADHC, reaching out to share our work with national and international scholarly communities. In March, Metadata Librarian Mary Alexander presented on 'Metadata Aspects of Omeka,' discussing the Black Belt 100 Lenses project, at the Visual Resource Association's 32nd Annual Conference in Milwaukee, WI. Post-Doctoral Fellow Emma Annette Wilson presented the research which she has conducted at the ADHC on 'Modelling Early Modern Logic' at the inaugural Texas Digital Humanities Consortium Conference in April 2014, and she is due to present her latest research in this field at the Early Modern Digital Projects and Computational Methods panels of the Sixteenth Century Society Conference in October 2014. Tom Wilson was invited to represent the ADHC at the Digital Scholarship Centers Workshop in April 2014 sponsored by the Coalition for Networked Information.





PROJECTS LAUNCHED

Black Belt 100 Lenses Digital Archive

<http://apps.lib.ua.edu/omeka>



In June 2014, working with Dr. Heather Pleasants of the Center for Community-Based Partnerships, the ADHC launched one of our first major large-scale projects, the Black Belt 100 Lenses Digital Archive. This is a digital repository of over 4,000 photographs taken between 2007 and 2011 by high school students from Alabama's Black Belt region, who were engaged in a project to comment on and document the area's unique histories and cultures by documenting this photographically. We hope that the project has created a model which could be adopted by communities in other parts of the US, providing young people with an unusual forum in which to think critically about their communities and to share these thoughts with the wider world via a digital archive of their photographs.

Lincoln Normal School

<http://apps.lib.ua.edu/blogs/lns/>



The ADHC partnered with Dr. Christa Vogelius, CLIR Post-Doctoral Fellow for the A. S. Williams III Americana Collection to digitize two rare photograph albums documenting daily life on campus at the Lincoln Normal School in Marion, AL. The school was established for the education of freed slaves after the Civil War, and we worked together to create a website which uses the digitized albums dating from 1909 to 1924 to document the history of Lincoln Normal School. We were proud to launch the website in April 2014, and hope to add to it using other similar photographic holdings in the Williams Collection in the future.

Alabama Architecture

<http://alarchitecture.ua.edu>



Alabama Architecture is a descriptive digital database about historical buildings and structures in Alabama, from both the Tuscaloosa area and further afield. It was created by Art History students taking course ARH 376 led by Professor Rachel Stephens, who worked in partnership with the ADHC to enable her class to create an online resource which could be added to each year by future iterations of the course. Gradually the aim is to harness the power of service learning so that students can make lasting intellectual contributions visible not only to their peers and local academic community, but also the international audience of the World Wide Web.

Art of the American South

<http://southernart.ua.edu>



Professor Rachel Stephens (Art History) partnered again with the ADHC to allow her class ARH 374 to create a series of online exhibitions about various historical southern art topics. Each project on the site was researched, written, and curated by a student, and as new iterations of the course take place this digital resource documenting a wide variety of subjects in the history of southern art will grow, becoming a valuable point of reference for students and scholars in the field working nationally and internationally, as well as the general public.

Game Archive

<http://gamearchive.as.ua.edu>



In another pedagogical partnership, the ADHC worked with Professor Erik Peterson (History) to enable his students to make a digital resource about the history of games and gaming in course HY300-001. The games considered range from the Royal Game of Ur (2500+ BCE) to Monopoly (1933), to video games such as The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim, and in the course of a compact May-mester, students wrote session reports documenting the experience of game play which they posted to this online archive. Research and Instructional Services Librarian Brett Spencer collaborated with Professor Peterson and the ADHC, furnishing a tailor-made bibliographic instruction session which taught students how to find appropriate secondary sources about different facets of the history of gaming. Students then selected secondary sources and wrote reviews of these which are housed within the online archive for use by future iterations of the course, and also the broader community engaged in this field either as scholars or gamers.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRENT PROJECTS

To See Justice Done: Letters From The Scottsboro Boys Trials



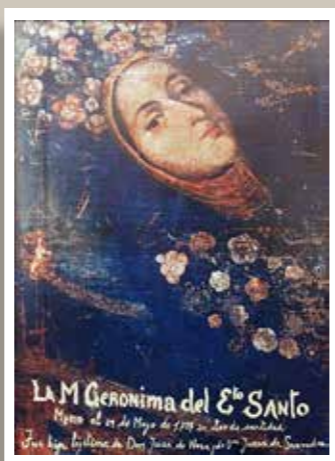
"To See Justice Done" is a digital exhibit of letters, petitions, flyers, and telegrams sent to Alabama governors about the pivotal trial of nine young African Americans in Scottsboro, AL, during the 1930s. In 2013, Alabama legislators passed two bills acknowledging that the men were "victims of a gross injustice". The ADHC has worked with Professor Ellen Spears (New College/American Studies), Margaret Sasser (American Studies), and also partners at the Scottsboro Boys Museum and the Alabama Department of Archives and History to create this online resource which gives a window into 1930s public opinion on this controversial trial via digitized archival materials, and is due to launch in July 2014.

SWASMIS



The ADHC is currently working with Professor Nikos Pappas (Music) to create a new research database enabling scholars to discover the history and dissemination of Southern and Western American Sacred Music and Influential Sources (1700-1870) (SWASMIS). The database catalogues every known Southern and Western sacred music composition both in print and manuscript, in languages ranging from English to Norwegian, German, Hebrew, Cherokee, and Hawaiian, and will allow users to search for specific songs, composers, publishers, types of song, and so on, to trace the history of a tune, situated within its geographic, historical, and cultural contexts. We are currently developing a prototype of the online database, whilst applying for support for the project from the National Endowment of the Humanities Division of Preservation and Access, Humanities Collections and Reference Resources program to expand SWASMIS into a fully-functioning Open Access website over the next two years.

The Digital Edition of Jeronima Nava y Saavedra's Vida

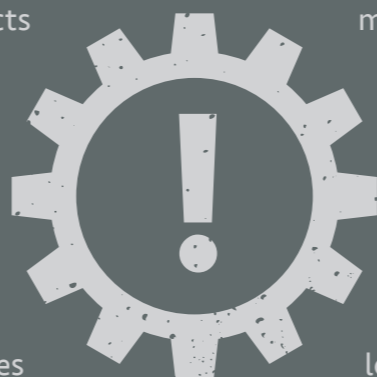


The Digital Edition of Jeronima Nava y Saavedra's Vida gives both the academic and the casual reader of women's spiritual autobiography the opportunity to read this Colonial Colombian nun's text from the original manuscript, together with scholarly discussions and notes to contextualize the work. The ADHC is collaborating with Professor Connie Janiga-Perkins (Modern Languages and Classics), drawing on the knowledge of our specialists in metadata and web technology to create a fully transcribed, tagged edition of the manuscript text, and we are delighted to work on this project in conjunction with the National Library of Colombia, which is home to the original text. We anticipate launching the edition by the end of 2014, and then hope to expand this project to incorporate more writings by colonial women in New Granada in 2015.

★ UPCOMING NEWS ★

2014/15 is set to be a busy year for the ADHC: several of our large-scale projects, including the Early Modern Network of Networks led by Dr. Emma Annette Wilson, and the Hobo News led by Professor Lynne Adrian (American Studies), are due to launch in Spring 2015, and significant progress will have been made on many of our long-term projects such as Shakespeare au/in Québec led by Professor Jen Drouin (English), and Professor Connie Janiga-Perkins' Digital Edition of Jeronima Nava y Saavedra's Vida.

We are also expanding our work with faculty members in integrating Digital Humanities techniques into their classrooms across campus in Fall and Spring 2014/15. The ADHC will also host two graduate-level courses in 2014/15. In the Fall, Dr. Emma Annette Wilson will teach 'Hacking the Renaissance', in which students from English will collaborate to recreate the social network of early modern poet and polemicist Andrew Marvell in a digital environment. In Spring 2015, Professor Jen Drouin will teach a new iteration of ENG 500 Digital Humanities to enable more graduate students to incorporate these techniques within their research and pedagogy.



The ADHC will be involved in two large-scale Digital Humanities events in 2014/15. In the Fall, we are collaborating with the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Auburn University to run THATCampAL 2014, which is a two-day open event designed to allow people in our communities to learn more about a wide range of Digital Humanities techniques in an informal environment. In early summer 2015, we aim to run our inaugural large-scale Digital Humanities conference, Digitorium, which will include a pre-conference event aimed to introduce educators from our local region to a variety of Digital Humanities strategies for use in a pedagogical context, and a two-day event focused on Digital Humanities research in line with the strengths of our community, in Southern Studies, Renaissance Literature, and Digital Humanities methods to highlight the role of practitioners in this field.

We look to triple the number of workshop sessions offered in the ADHC and increase use by making the space available to graduate students for quiet study and small group gatherings during evening and weekend hours.