Re-Imagining Scholarly Arguments in a Digital Context

Lisa Spiro
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As Tara McPherson observes, many scholars take hybrid approaches to digital publishing, creating "companions" to print publications that capitalize on the capabilities of digital media. Using one of your own essays (completed or in progress) as an example, sketch out two or three ways you might transform it into a work of digital scholarship. Feel free to get wild and imagine approaches you don't know how to implement. Be prepared to share your initial ideas at the end of class.

As a way to structure your musings, consider:

- What are some of the limitations of print? What possibilities does the digital open up?
- What are you trying to accomplish with your piece? How might taking advantages of digital affordances benefit your argument? Detract from it?
- What's the relationship between form and content in your work as it stands now? In the reimagined work?
- What might be the role of the reader in your reimagined piece? The author?

Questions and Models

How might you make use of data visualizations and GIS maps to advance your argument and enable readers to explore it?
- Example: Eli Katz & Danny Towns, "Conflict on the Q!" *Spatial History Project*

How might you integrate media (audio, video, etc.) into your argument?
- Example: Scalar, e.g. *The Nicest Kids in Town*

How might you explore new ways of structuring your argument?
- Example: The Differences Slavery Made
- Example: *Vectors*

How might you build community and conversation around your argument?
- Example: *Writing History in the Digital Age*

- Example: Randy Malamud, "Looking at People Looking at Animals," *MediaCommons* (August 19, 2013)

What can you do in a platform like WordPress or Scalar that you can't do in print?

How might you use digital publishing to address some of the problems facing humanities publishing, e.g. publication delays?
- Example: *Hacking the Academy*: "A Book Crowdsourced in One Week"

How might you explore new scholarly forms and reach new audiences with your work?
- Example: Michael Wesch, "The Machine is Us/ing Us (Final Version)"

How might you gain attention and credit for your work?
- Example: *DH Now*

What are other ways that you could experiment with digital forms of scholarly arguments?

What are potential models for your publication from beyond the academy?

Jot down your ideas for your reimagined argument: