

2017 Report for the Digital Culture Research Group at UiB

Leadership: Professor Scott Rettberg is the research group leader as of Jan. 1, 2018.

Membership: In 2017, the following were frequent participants in our activities:

- Professor Scott Rettberg (leader)
- Professor Jill Walker Rettberg
- Associate Professor Daniel Apollon
- Stipendiat Elisabeth Nesheim
- Stipendiat Álvaro Seiça
- Stipendiat Patricia Tomaszek
- Post-doc researcher Anne Sofia Karhio
- Database developer Stein Magne Bjørklund
- UiB Librarian Aud Gjersdal

External/visiting members:

- Fulbright Scholar Jason Nelson (2016-17)
- Fulbright Scholar Mia Zamora (2017-2018)
- Professor 2 Mary Flanagan
- Odile Farge (Paris 8 University)
- Associate Professor Eric Dean Rasmussen (University of Stavanger)
- Hannah Ackermans (Univeristy of Utrecht)

Activities in 2017:

The Electronic Literature Research group was initiated in 2011, and operates separately from Digital Culture research group, with which it is still closely affiliated. A number of joint meetings with the Digital Culture research group were held in 2016, and PhD researcher training is administered jointly through the two research groups. The research group met regularly.

In 2017 the group was primarily focused on Ph.D. researcher training, on participating in events including guest lecturers from international scholars, on developing new international ties, and continuing development and support of the *Electronic Literature Knowledge Base*, the open-access research database which is currently the most extensive online resource in the field of electronic literature. We also organized an international seminar on the Poetics and Politics of Virtual Reality.

Research group members had a number of significant research publications in 2017, including a number of journal articles and book chapters. Group members including Scott Rettberg, Jill Walker Rettberg, Anne Karhio, Mary Flanagan, Jason Nelson, Mia Zamora, Elisabeth Nesheim, Álvaro Seiça international conferences related to digital media aesthetics and electronic literature, notably including seven presentations by group members at the Electronic Literature Organization conference.

Jill Walker Rettberg and Scott Rettberg spent the autumn 2017 semester on sabbatical in the USA, JWR at MIT and attending research group meetings at Microsoft Research New England, and SR with a joint appointment at Brown and MIT. In addition, they gave a number of guest lectures, with JWR speaking at Brown and MIT, and SR speaking at Brown, MIT, the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, Winona State University, Plymouth State University, UC Berkeley, the Berkeley Center for New Media, and UC Santa Cruz.

Scholarly work continues apace. Álvaro Seiça in 2017 completed and submitted his dissertation *setInterval()* *Time-Based Readings of Kinetic Poetry*. Scott Rettberg completed the draft of his book *Electronic Literature*, to be published during the same period. Post-doc researcher Anne Karhio also has several significant publications related to electronic literature in press. One of the main functions of our group is to regularly review and discuss work-in-progress. Odile Farge submitted an Marie Curie postdoc application.

During 2017 semester, continued our collaboration with the Bergen Public Library, producing several public events with electronic literature authors to Bergen audiences and assisting the library with producing a European Culture-funded international award and exhibition of electronic literature. We continue to collaborate with the UiB library on projects including a special collection of ephemera and documents related to the field of electronic literature, which has now been established in the library's special collections. With the UiB library we are now also engaged in a project with the National Library of Norway to archive electronic literature produced in Norway or with significant connections to Norway.

We are engaged in collaborations with four universities: Jagellonian University in Krakow, Poland, the National University of Ireland-Galway, City University of Hong Kong, and University of California, Berkeley.

Funding received in 2016:

We received departmental funding in support of a seminar on the Poetics and Politics of Virtual Reality held in May 2016 in Bergen. We also were awarded a Peder Sather grant for 2017/18 collaboration with the Berkeley Center for New Media at UC Berkeley.

Plans for 2018:

In 2018, two of our Ph.D. candidates are expected to defend their dissertations. Bringing them to completion will be one of our primary goals. We are collaborating with the Berkeley Center for New Media on a seminar on Electronic Literature as a Framework for the Digital Humanities and in addition will host two UC Berkeley researchers for visits in May 2017. We will likely apply for funding in 2018 in support of collaborative research projects with UC Berkeley and City University of Hong Kong developing new national and/or European grant proposals related to electronic literature. We will participate in a number of joint activities with our library partners, including the European Culture project led by the Bergen Public Library. We will also continue to develop and lead the *Electronic Literature Knowledge Base*. We will also develop our new collaborations with our international partners. Several guest researchers are scheduled to join us for visits during the Spring 2018 semester, and events will take place around their visits.