

UiB Electronic Literature Research Group: 2012 Annual Report

Composition of the Research Group

The research group in electronic literature is mainly composed of researchers in Digital Culture working on the topic of electronic literature. Researchers associated with the ELMCIP Knowledge Base project, visiting Fulbright scholars, and other guest researchers also frequently join in our meetings.

In 2011, the following were frequent participants in our activities:

- Associate Professor Scott Rettberg (leader)
- Professor Jill Walker Rettberg
- Researcher Eric Rasmussen (ELMCIP)
- Stipendiat Patricia Tomaszek
- Stipendiat Elisabeth Nesheim

External/visiting members:

- Fulbright Scholar Davin Heckman (2011-2012)
- Fulbright Scholar Leonardo Flores (2012-2013)
- Luciana Gattass (SPIRE Guest Researcher from Brazil) (Fall 2012)
- Thomas Brevik (Librarian, Landås Library)
- Aud Gjersdal (UiB Library)
- Talan Memmott (Blekinge Institute of Technology)
- Michelle Teran (KHiB)
- Rob Wittig (University of Minnesota at Duluth)

Research Group Activities in 2012

The Electronic Literature Research group was initiated in 2011, though members of the group have regularly organized research activities for the past five years under the umbrella of the 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 2012, and PhD researcher training is administered jointly through the two research groups. The research group met regularly. Weekly meetings were held each Friday during the academic year focused on the development of the ELMCIP Knowledge Base and research following from it. In Fall 2012, these meetings served as an aspect of research-led teaching, as undergraduate students from the course DIKULT 207: Praktisk forskningstrening i digitala humaniora: utvikling av ein vitenskapelig database om elektronisk litteratur were invited to join and participate. Additional meetings were held focused on other research topics related to electronic literature, frequently including guest lecturers. A number of special events and guest lectures were held during this period, which are outlined below. Research group members published research and disseminated research at a number of international academic conferences in this period.

Research Group Special Events and Research Meetings

Partnership Meeting with Bergen Public Library

23.02.2012: Meeting leadership of Bergen Public Library, to discuss ELRG participation in Digital Arenas project and other future collaborations.

Co-organized Conference with KHiB: Data is Political

15.03.2012: Our research group help to co-organize and secure VERDIKT event funding (50.000 NOK) for a conference principally organized by the Bergen National Academy of Art and Design, "Data is Political": <http://dataispolitical.net> a symposium on art, design, and the politics of information. Designers, artists, scientists discuss the aesthetic, ethical and spatial dimensions of information and its relation to power, the production of knowledge, and construction of urban spaces. The symposium took place at the Bergen Public Library.

Meetings on to Develop Consortium on Digital Humanities Databases and Visualization

21.02.2012: HERA Matchmaking event in Berlin.

27.02.2012: Meeting with Joergen Schaeffer, University of Seigen.

01.03.2012: Meeting with Andrew Salway, UniResearch.

07.03.2012: Meeting with UiB Visualization Research Group (Infomedia).

06.03.2012: Meeting with Oliver Grau, Danube University Krems.

08-09.03.2012: Meeting in Tallinn with David Lamas and Scholarly Technology Group, University of Tallinn.

19-22.03.2012: Meetings, Portugal in Porto with Rui Torres, Manuel Portela, Johanna Drucker and Po.Ex project.

02.04.2012: Meeting at UiB with Isto Huivila, Uppsala University.

Electronic Literature Reading: Folgen

12.03.2012: Performance of work-in-progress by Michelle Teran.

Guest Lecture: "Literature in a Time of Media Change"

12.04.2012: Fulbright lecture by Davin Heckman.

Research Presentations in the USA

17.04.2012: ELMCIP Knowledge Base Workshop, School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

18.04.2012: ELMCIP Knowledge Base research presentation, Electronic Visualization Lab, Univeristy of Illinois at Chicago.

19.04.2012: Digital Humanities and Drupal Database meeting, University of Chicago Library.

23.04.2012: ELMCIP Knowledge Base research presentation and meetings with Lev Manovich, Jeremy Douglass, Software Studies lab at UC San Diego.

24.04.2012: Scott Rettberg electronic literature lecture at University of Southern California.

25.04.2012: ELMCIP Knowledge Base research presentation and meeting with the Transcriptions Lab (Alan Liu, Rita Raley et al.), University of California at Santa Barbara.

26.04.2012: ELMCIP Knowledge Base research presentation and meeting with Stanford Literary Lab (Matthew Jockes, Franco Moretti, et al.), Stanford.

27.04.2012: Meeting with Howard Rheingold, San Francisco.

Lecture: "Distributed Matters: Production of Presence and the Augmented Textuality of VR"

07.05.2012: Guest presenter Luciana Gattass

Lecture: "Textual Presence and Control in Electronic Literature"

01.06.2012: Patricia Tomaszek's vitenskapsteoretisk innlegg

Lecture: "Literary Scholarship 2.0: Reinventing Traditional Critical Practices for the Digital Age"

17.09.2012: Fulbright scholar Leonardo Flores

Presentations by UiB participants in the Nordic Digital Culture Summer School 2012

17.09.2012: BA Thesis presentations by Helene Helgeland and Sunniva Berg

Meeting at Trinity College Dublin to Discuss Possible Development of Joint PhD program in Digital Arts

20-21.09.2012

Guest Lecture: "Books in the Digital Era in Norway"

04.10.2012: Øyvind Prytz from Kulturrådet.

Exhibiting and Curating Electronic Literature

30.10.2012: Hosted by the Electronic Literature Research Group at the University of Bergen

Funded by UiB, Bergen kommune and Norges forskningsråd

Daytime seminar sessions: Hordaland Kunstsenter

Evening performances: Galleri 3.14

This workshop, which will include participants from Bergen cultural institutions and UiB researchers, as well as international expert speakers, was intended to examine the growing trend towards the exhibition of electronic literature in art venues, such as museums and galleries, and to examine models of curating and exhibiting electronic literature in these environments. In addition to providing an opportunity for discussion and analysis of what happens to the situation of digital literary artifacts when they are presented in gallery environments, this workshop will provide an important planning opportunity.

The Electronic Literature Organization conference, which has traditionally been a biennial conference hosted in the USA, is in 2013 moving to an annual schedule, with a European host in alternating years. The first European iteration will be hosted in Paris, by Paris 8 University, in 2013, and then in Bergen in 2015. The ELO conference includes an academic congress, readings and performances, and exhibitions of electronic literature in art venues. By focusing attention on the issues, challenges, and conceptual opportunities offered in curating and exhibiting electronic literature, we also hope to identify and develop relationships with partners for the eventual production of a superb set of exhibitions in affiliation with the 2015 ELO Conference.

The program of the seminar was as follows:

10:00-10:30 About the ELO, the ELO conference series and plans for ELO2015 in Bergen: Scott Rettberg (UiB), Nick Montfort (MIT), Roderick Coover (Temple U)

10:30-11:30 Exhibitions of Electronic Literature

Dene Grigar (Washington State U): Exhibiting Electronic Literature

Kristian Pedersen: Gasspedal Animert exhibition in Oslo

Mark Daniels and/or Simon Biggs (U of Edinburgh) via Skype: the ELMCIP exhibition in Edinburgh

11:30-12:00 Break

12:00-13:00 Collections, libraries and archives

Søren Pold (Aarhus U): Exhibiting Electronic Literature with libraries

Rui Torres (U Fernando Passoa): Po-Ex archive and exhibition possibilities

Talan Memmott (Blekinge Institute of Technology): The ELMCIP European Anthology of Electronic Literature

13:00-14:00 Lunch (Restaurant Pascal, Valkendorfs gate 8)

14:15-14:45 Sissel Lillebostad (coordinator MA in Creative Curating, KHiB): How does a curator think?

14:45-15:45 Panel: Bergen curators, editors and organisers

Anne Marthe Dyvi (BEK), Malin Barth (3.14), Elisabeth Nesheim (Piksel)

How do we think about curating new media art or literature? What constraints and possibilities are there in the spaces we use and our communities?

15:45-16:30 Discussion groups: crafting a call for works

Group leaders: Jeremy Welsh (KHiB), Maya Økland (KNIPSU), Rebekka Kvelland (Litteraturhuset i Bergen), Randi Grov Berger (Entree), Sverre Helge Bostad (Bergen offentlige bibliotek)

What are the most important things to keep in mind when formulating a call for works for the ELO conference exhibitions? What do we need to think about in terms of venues and communities in Bergen?

16:30-17:00 Plenary discussion and summary

20:30-23:00 Readings, Screenings and Performances at Gallery 3.14

"An Evening of Digital Narratives and Poetry"

Michelle Teran, Roderick Coover, Nick Montfort, Scott Rettberg, Talan Memmott, Kristian Pedersen, Rui Torres

Presentation: "Building the Brazilian Electronic Literature Collection"

06.12.2012: Luciana Gattass, SPIRE Guest Researcher

Presentation: "Research in Multimodal Nordic Digital Literature"

06.12.2012: Melissa Lucas, Guest Researcher from the University of Washington

Externally funded research applications

A number of grant applications were submitted via the research group during this period, including an EU FP-7 ICT proposal, a HERA preliminary proposal, a FRIHUM proposal, a SPIRE proposal, a NORAM proposal.

In 2012, the research group submitted three major grant applications: to the EU FP7 ICT framework "PRO-CRED: Promoting Cultural Resources through Extensible Databases", to HERA – outline proposal "ETD: Exhibit the Database", and to the Norwegian Research Council FRIHUM "The Electronic Literature Lab: Developing Macroanalytic Digital Humanities Research on Electronic Literature." Regrettably none

of the three were funded, though the FRIHUM project scored very well, with an overall score of 6/7 and a very positive review. Taking the reviewers comments into consideration we intend to resubmit this project in 2013 via FRIHUM or another NFR framework, and in any case will use it as a guideline for our groups research strategy in the next few years.

The research group was awarded småforskmidler funding of 80.000 NOK for two activities: a Digital Humanities research trip to the USA, during which Scott Rettberg and Jill Walker Rettberg presented the ELMCIP Knowledge Base to leading digital humanities researchers at seven institutions in Chicago and California, and a seminar focused on Exhibiting and Curating Electronic Literature, held in Bergen in September 2012.

With KHiB we were awarded we were awarded 50.000 NOK from VERDIKT for the March 2012“Data is Political” seminar.

Bergen Kommune co-funded the Exhibiting E-Lit seminar with a grant of 35.000 NOK.

SPIRE funding of 90.000 NOK was received funding two three-month post-doc guest researcher stays, Luciana Gattass from Brazil in 2012 and Natalia Federova from Russia in 2013.

Excursion funding of approximately 50.000 NOK was awarded to bring undergraduate DIKULT students to the ELMCIP conference in Edinburgh.

NORAM funding of 150.000 NOK was secured from SIU, which will fund teaching and researcher exchanges between the research group and three institutions in the US (University of West Virginia, Temple University, and University of Minnesota at Duluth) and pilot joint undergraduate / MA level course in collaborative creativity in new media, to be held in Bergen in August 2013.

Research Project Led by the Electronic Literature Research Group

ELMCIP

The ELMCIP (Electronic Literature as a Model of Creativity and Practice) project, led by Scott Rettberg, which is funded from June 2010-June 2013, continued to be a main focus of activity of the research group. Development of the ELMCIP Knowledge Base (<http://elmcip.net/knowledgebase>), which is UiB's main research output for the project, was the center of much activity. During the year the project moved from a prerelease stage to an active digital humanities database, which now includes more than 5.000 records documenting works of electronic literature, critical writing, authors, publishers, organizations, events and teaching resources in electronic literature. It is now widely recognized as an important research infrastructure for the international field of electronic literature.

Each Friday weekly meetings are held involving the team working on the Knowledge Base. Members of the Bergen ELMCIP team active in 2012 included:

- Scott Rettberg (project leader)
- Elisabeth Nesheim (MA student / research assistant)
- Jill Walker Rettberg

- Patricia Tomaszek (PhD student)
- Thomas Brevik (librarian at Sjøkrigsskolen)
- Eric Rasmussen (Post-doc Researcher)
- Davin Heckman (Fulbright)
- Leonardo Flores (Fulbright)
- Stein Magne Bjørklund (Programmer)
- Aud Gjersdal (UiB Library)
- Luciana Gattass (SPIRE guest researcher)
- Melissa Lucas (guest researcher from U of Washington)

Because the Knowledge Base is an active research database which UiB agreed to support and develop for five years beyond the period of the grant, we are actively pursuing further funding for staff and resources to support its continued development beyond 2012.

In 2012, members of the research group also participated and presented at the ELMCIP seminar "Electronic as/in Performance" at the Arnolfini in Bristol 03-05.2012, and the final ELMCIP conference and exhibition "Remediating the Social" held in Edinburgh 01-03.11.2012. Individual presentations are outlined below.

Scott Rettberg and Patricia Tomaszek have co-edited two issues of *Dichtung Digital* featuring ELMCIP-related papers on Electronic Literature Communities. 19 articles were selected and edited for these two special issues. The first was released in 2012, and the second is in press and will be published early in 2013.

Graduate students involved in the group

Patricia Tomaszek (PhD student) and Elisabeth Nesheim (PhD student) were actively involved in the research group in 2012. Nesheim was awarded a stipend in 2012. Guest Ph.D. researcher Melissa Lucas from the University of Washington was also an active participant. We expect new MA students to join the group in 2013.

Scholarly Publications

Members of the research group published the following electronic literature-related articles in 2011. Asterisk indicates that the publication is expected to count for research points:

Scott Rettberg

"Bootstrapping Electronic Literature." 2012. *Remediating the Social*. Simon Biggs, ed. Bergen: ELMCIP.

"Developing an Identity for the Field of Electronic Literature: Reflections on the Electronic Literature Organization Archives." *Dichtung Digital* 41.

Rettberg, Scott and Patricia Tomaszek. "Electronic Literature Communities, Part I." *Dichtung Digital* 41.

"Collaborative Narrative." Forthcoming 2013. *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Digital Media and Textuality*. Lori Emerson, Ben Roberston, and Marie Laure-Ryan, eds. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP.

"Electronic Literature." Forthcoming 2013. *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Digital Media and Textuality*. Lori Emerson, Ben Roberston, and Marie Laure-Ryan, eds. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP.

Jill Rettberg

"Electronic Literature Seen from a Distance: The Beginnings of a Field." *Dichtung-Digital* 41.

"Den elektronisk litteraturen kommer!" NRK bookbloggen. 1 Nov. 2012.

<http://blogg.nrk.no/bok/2012/11/01/elektronisk-litteratur/>

Patricia Tomaszek

Rettberg, Scott and Patricia Tomaszek. "Electronic Literature Communities, Part I." *Dichtung Digital* 41.

"German Net Literature. In the Exile of Invisibility." *Cybertext Yearbook* 2012.

"Teaching Digital Literature within a "Research and Teaching Partnership" in a Transatlantic Blended Learning Environment." 2012. *ELMCIP Anthology of European Electronic Literature*. Engberg, Maria, Talan Memmot, and David Prater, eds. Karlskrona: ELMCIP.

Davin Heckman

"Subversion." *The Johns Hopkins Guide the Digital Humanities*. Lori Emerson, Marie-Laure Ryan, and Benjamin Robertson, eds. Johns Hopkins UP.

"The Politics of Plasticity: Neoliberalism and the Digital Text." Forthcoming 2013. *Electronic Book Review* (www.electronicbookreview.com).

The Disturbed Dialectic of Literary Criticism in an Age of Innovation." *Leonardo Electronic Almanac* (www.leoalmanac.org).

Bouchardon, Serge, and Davin Heckman (2012), "Digital Manipulability and Digital Literature." *Electronic Book Review* (www.electronicbookreview.com).

Leonardo Flores

I ♥ E-Poetry. Blog. 154 entries from August 1 to present. URL: <http://leonardoflores.net>.

"Pre-History, History, and New Directions in Digital Poetry" *Electronic Book Review*. Forthcoming 2013.

"Authorial Scholarship 2.0: Tracing the Creative Process in Online Communities" *Remediating the Social*. Bergen, Norway: ELMCIP: Electronic Literature as a Model of Creativity and Innovation in Practice. 2012.

Conferences / Presentations of Scholarly and Creative work

Scott Rettberg

"Katastrofetrilogien" and "Three Rails Live." With Roderick Coover and Nick Montfort. Presentation of films and electronic literature. &Now Festival of Experimental Writing. Sorbonne University, Paris, France. 7-9.06.2012.

“Katastrofetirlogien.” Creative work in exhibition. Electrifying Literature: Affordances and Constraints: The ELO 2012 Media Art Show. Morgantown, West Virginia. 18-24.06.2012.

“Documenting Your Work: A Workshop on Using the ELMCIP Knowledge Base for Authors, Critics, and Teachers of Electronic Literature.” Electrifying Literature: Affordances and Constraints: The ELO 2012 Conference. Morgantown, West Virginia. 18-24.06.2012.

“The Story of *Tokyo Garage*.” Part of Panel “Taroko Gorge Remixed: Repetition and Difference in Machine Texts.” Electrifying Literature: Affordances and Constraints: The ELO 2012 Conference. Morgantown, West Virginia. 18-24 .06.2012.

“places/traces/stories.” Exhibition including “Implementation”, “Katastrofetirlogien”, and “Three Rails Live.” Rom 8 Gallery, Bergen. 05-19.10.2012.

“ELMCIP Research Project Goals, Results, and Impact.” ELMCIP Remediating the Social Conference. Edinburgh. 01.11 2012.

A Response to Nick Montfort's "Programming for Fun, Together." ELMCIP Remediating the Social Conference. Edinburgh. 1.11.2012.

“Collective Memory and the Development of a Field: Building the ELMCIP Electronic Literature Knowledge Base.” Keynote address. The Digital Subject: Questioning Hypermnesia - International and Transdisciplinary Conference. Paris 8 University, Paris. 13 .11.2012.

“From the Avant-Garde to the Digital Vernacular.” Keynote address. 2012 Oslo International Poetry Film Festival. Gyllendal Forlag, Oslo. 17.11.2012.

“Paratexts in the ELMCIP Knowledge Base.” UiB-workshop "Exploring Paratexts in Digital Contexts", 06.12.2012.

Jill Rettberg

“Digital dannelse: Hva trenger vi å kunne for å delta i dagens digitale tekstkultur?” Presentation at LNU's conference Ikke stykkevis og delt – grunnleggende ferdigheter og dannelse i norskfaget; 24.03.2012

“Sharing Photos: Filtering Moments of Life in Social Media.” Presentation at Tracking/Tracing Seminar. Kunsthøgskolen i Bergen. 21.01.2012.

“Telling our Stories: Technologically Mediated Self-Representations.” Presentation at Piksels and Lines, Bergen. 2012-06-06 - 2012-06-09

Patricia Tomaszek

"Post-Processing Translations of E-Lit Works and Scholarship" at "Translating E-Literature", Paris, June 12-14, 2012.

"The Web is Paratextual: An Exploration of the Web's Architecture from a Paratextual Perspective" at UiB-workshop "Exploring Paratexts in Digital Contexts", Dec. 6, 2012.

Leonardo Flores

"Hardening Arteroids: Challenges in Creating a Critical Edition of A Born-Digital Work." Exploring Paratexts in Digital Contexts. University of Bergen, Dec 6, 2012.

"Doing Disciplinarity: Puerto Rican Studies is/as/with American Studies." Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association: Dimensions of Empire and Resistance: Past, Present, and Future, San Juan, PR, November 18, 2012.

"Publishing 2.0: Reimagining the Publication and Preservation of Electronic Literature." First International Conference on Electronic Literature and Virtual Art. Instituto Franklin, Alcalá de Henares, October 3, 2012.

Strategy for regional, national, and international cooperation

Consortium of Electronic Literature (CELL)

In 2011, we advanced the work of the Consortium for Electronic Literature, which includes partnerships with electronic literature institutions and databases in Europe, North America, and Australia.

The Electronic Literature Organization

We have reached a tentative agreement with the Electronic Literature Organization to host the Electronic Literature Organization conference and exhibition in Bergen in 2015. The major international conference has been hosted biannually in the USA, but in 2013 is moving to an annual schedule, with a European host in alternating years, starting with Paris in 2013. Scott Rettberg continues to serve on the board of directors of the ELO, and is serving on the scientific committee of the 2013 conference.

HERA and FP7

We are continuing to work with our ELMCIP partners in 6 European countries as the project progress towards its outcomes and completion in 2013.

Local and National partnerships

We are partners with the Bergen Public Library about joint project applications and the Bergen Kommune about electronic literature exhibition activities. We plan to apply to the Kommune and to småforsksmidler to support activities involving institutions in the Bergen art and literary communities. We have submitted a plan for a lecture / reading series on electronic literature at the new Writer's House, which will open in 2013.

Plans for 2013

Our work on the ELMCIP project will continue. We will also submit a number of grant applications in hopes of finding continuing funding to develop the Knowledge Base and to derive new research outcomes from it.

We plan to apply for småforsk funding in the next round in order to fund two activities: a public reading and performance of electronic literature and new media artworks, and a research seminar focused on using social network analysis techniques to produce macroanalytic research on electronic literature using information harvested from the ELMCIP Electronic Literature Knowledge Base.

We are currently developing a grant application with Trinity University College Dublin and other European partners seeking exploratory funding to develop the infrastructure for a joint Ph.D. program in Digital Arts and Humanities, which will be submitted in 2013.

In the Spring of 2013, Scott Rettberg and Jill Walker Rettberg will travel to University of Minnesota / Duluth, University of West Virginia, and Temple University to explore exchange opportunities with our partners in the NORAM project, and in August of 2013, we will conduct the joint course "Collaborative Creativity in New Media" with faculty and students from those institutions, along with our own students and faculty.

Several members of our group will be involved in the concluding activities of the ELMCIP research project, including writing two chapters and editing the final research report of the project, which will be published as a print and electronic book.

A number of publications are in progress or in press, and research group members will be presenting at conferences including the HASTAC conference, the MIT Media in Transition conference, the E-Poetry Festival, Electronic Literature Organization conference, and others in 2013.

As we further develop plans for hosting the 2015 ELO conference and exhibition, we will work to develop in advance partnerships, scientific and artistic committees and a funding strategy to bring off a major international conference to successful fruition in Bergen.

We will continue to have weekly meetings centered on work involving the ELMCIP Knowledge Base, and occasional guest lectures and work-in-progress presentations.