

## University of Bergen Electronic Literature Research Group 2014 Report

**Leadership:** Professor Scott Rettberg is the research group leader as of Jan. 1, 2015.

**Membership:** In 2014, the following were frequent participants in our activities:

- Professor Scott Rettberg (leader)
- Professor Jill Walker Rettberg
- Associate Professor Daniel Apollon
- Stipendiat Patricia Tomaszek
- Stipendiat Elisabeth Nesheim
- Stipendiat Álvaro Seiça
- Post-doc researcher Anne Sofia Karhio
- MA student Sunniva Berg
- Database developer Stein Magne Bjørklund
- Researcher Talan Memmott

### **External/visiting members:**

- Fulbright Scholar Judd Morrissey (2013-2014)
- Fulbright Scholar Kathi Inman Berens (2014-2013)
- Aud Gjersdal (UiB Library)
- Maya Zalbidea (SPIRE Guest Researcher from La Salle University, Madrid 2013-2014)
- Luciana Gattass (SPIRE Guest Researcher from Brazil) (Fall 2012)
- Natalia Fedorova (SPIRE Guest Research from Smoly Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia) (Summer and Fall 2013)
- Thomas Brevik (Librarian, Landås Library)
- Ottar Ormstad (Digital Poet, Oslo)
- Michelle Teran (KHiB)
- Rob Wittig (University of Minnesota at Duluth)
- Hans Kristian Rustad (Hedmark University College)
- Anders Fagerjord (University of Oslo)

- Anders Løvlie (Gjøvik University College)

### **Activities in 2014:**

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 2013, and PhD researcher training is administered jointly through the two research groups. The research group met regularly. Regular meetings during the academic year focused on the development of the ELMCIP Knowledge Base and research following from it. Additional meetings were held focused on other research topics related to electronic literature, frequently including guest lecturers. In 2014, the Digital Arena Electronic Literature Reading Series organized in collaboration with the Bergen Public Library was a center of research group and public engagement for the research group. The series included six nine events featuring international researchers, writers and artists presenting their work and leading public audiences in discussion and debate of the humanities research and artworks presented.

Professors Scott Rettberg and Jill Walker Rettberg were on sabbatical in the USA in Spring 2014. Based at the University of Illinois Chicago, they gave many presentations at leading USA institutions such as Brown University, the University of Chicago, and MIT. A number of research group members presented new work at international conferences, festivals, and as guest lectures. Jill Walker Rettberg gave one of the keynote addresses at the ELO 2014 conference. During Nov-Dec. 2015, Scott Rettberg was also an invited international chair professor at the H2H Arts Labex, Paris 8 University. A detailed list will be made available online in an extended version of this report.

Research group members had a number of significant research publications in 2014, including Jill Walker Rettberg's book *Seeing Ourselves Through Technology: How We Use Selfies, Blogs and Wearable Devices to See and Shape Ourselves* on Palgrave, the book *Electronic Literature as a Model of Creativity and Innovation in Practice* co-edited by Scott Rettberg on West Virginia University Press, and numerous book chapters and journal articles. Our research group had a particularly strong presence in the important 2014 collection *The Johns Hopkins Guide*

to *Digital Media* and published in journals ranging from *Literary and Linguistic Computing: Journal of the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations* to the *electronic book review*.

#### **Funding received in 2014:**

The research group received 30.000 NOK in smådriftsmidler in 2014, and additionally was awarded 27.500 NOK by the Bergen Public Library. These funds were used to support Digital Arenas series of electronic literature and events, and to begin to develop a collection of articles and archives based on the events and on examining electronic literature as a performative genre.

Late in 2014, the research group was awarded 150.000 NOK by the Norwegian Research Council, in support of the upcoming 2015 Electronic Literature Organization conference and festival, and 150.000 NOK by the Nordic Cultural Council in support of the “Kid-E-Lit” project – which will include one exhibition at the Bergen Public Library as part of ELO 2015.

#### **Plans for 2015:**

In 2015, our research group will be focused on the 2015 Electronic Literature Organization Conference and Festival, which will include both traditional humanities research, with panels, papers, roundtables, and workshops, and an extensive festival of electronic literature and digital art, including original artworks, performances, and films at many of the major cultural venues of Bergen as well as at the University of Bergen. The call for papers for the conference resulted in an unprecedented number of submissions. 339 researchers, writers, and artists from 39 countries responded to the call, so we expect that this will be a significant event of scale. We are currently writing grants to help support the event and research outcomes from it, such as book and online journal publication of papers, exhibition catalog, and archives. The ELO 2015 conference will also entail researcher training opportunities. It is a major undertaking but we anticipate that it, along with our leading research database, will continue to affirm UIB’s reputation as one of the leading international centers of research in the field of electronic literature.