

## **University of Bergen Electronic Literature Research Group 2014 Report**

**Leadership:** Professor Scott Rettberg is the research group leader as of Jan. 1, 2016.

**Membership:** In 2015, 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 Thor Madsen
- Database developer Stein Magne Bjørklund
- Researcher Talan Memmott

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

- Fulbright Scholar Kathi Inman Berens (2014-2015)
- Aud Gjersdal (UiB Library)
- Associate Professor Eric Dean Rasmussen (University of Stavanger)
- Luciana Gattass (University of Hong Kong)
- Hannah Ackermans (Univeristy of Utrecht)
- Lucas Ramada Preito (University of Barcelona)
- Natalia Fedorova (Smolny Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia)
- Ottar Ormstad (Digital Poet, Oslo)

### **Activities in 2015:**

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 2015, and PhD researcher training is administered jointly through the two research groups. The research group met regularly.

In 2015 the primary focus of the group was on the production of the 2015 Electronic Literature Organization conference hosted at the University of Bergen and the associated End(s) of Electronic Literature Festival which included five different exhibitions at the Bergen Public Library, University of Bergen Library, Gallery 3, 14, USF Verftet, and Lydgalleriet. The four-day international conference included more than 250 delegates from 32 countries, and was an unqualified success. The production of the conference included the book publication *The End(s) of Electronic Literature*, an extensive publication of the conference program and exhibition catalog. The conference will also in 2016 result in three different special issues of the online journals *Hyperrhiz*, *electronic book review*, and *Dichtung Digital* featuring selected full papers from the conference and works of digital literature and documentation of performances and exhibitions. The conference was very well received by attendees—it was the largest and most extensive ELO conference to date—and also a great outreach event, through the exhibitions of the festival, which ran for periods of weeks after the conference and engaged many members of the Bergen public. The conference and exhibitions cemented UiB's reputation as a leader in the international field of electronic literature.

Research group members had a number of significant research publications in 2014, including a number of journal articles and book chapters and the book *Electronic Literature Communities* co-edited by Scott Rettberg and Patricia Tomazek with the Computing Literature series of the Center for Literary Computing. Full details of research publications will be documented in Kristin.

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

The research group received 100.000 NOK in smådriftsmidler and department support in 2015 in support of the conference. The budgets of the conference and festival were quite a deal greater than this – in effect the contribution essentially covered the amount charged by UiB for the

use of its own rooms on campus. The production of the conference entailed a great deal of external fundraising and grant writing activity.

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 included one exhibition at the Bergen Public Library as part of ELO 2015. External funding supporters for the exhibitions included the Norwegian Arts Council, Bergen Kommune, Bergen Fylkeskommune, EU/IRC, KHiB, BEK, and others.

**Plans for 2016:**

In 2016, we plan to focus on new writing projects, particularly work by Ph.D. students in the group, as all three Ph.D. students in the group are reaching the final stages of their research progression. This will include regular research group meetings, a seminar invitation of an external expert reader focused on Patricia Tomasek’s dissertation (in the Spring term), and a seminar focused on Digital Poetics and Haptic Interfaces in Digital Art (the subjects of Alvaro Seiça and Elisabeth Nesheim’s dissertations). The other continued focus of the group will be on the maintenance, development, and new research outcomes from the ELMCIP Electronic Literature Knowledge Base.