

University of Bergen Electronic Literature Research Group 2016 Report

Leadership: Professor Scott Rettberg is the research group leader as of Jan. 1, 2017.

Membership: In 2016, 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
- UiB Librarian Aud Gjersdal

External/visiting members:

- Fulbright Scholar Jason Nelson (2016-17)
- Professor 2 Mary Flanagan
- Associate Professor Eric Dean Rasmussen (University of Stavanger)
- Hannah Ackermans (Univeristy of Utrecht)
- Piotr Marcecki (Jagellonian University)

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 2016, and PhD researcher training is

administered jointly through the two research groups. The research group met regularly.

In 2016 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.

Research group members had a number of significant research publications in 2015, including a number of journal articles and book chapters. Group members including Scott Rettberg, Jill Walker Rettberg, Anne Karhio, Mary Flanagan, Jason Nelson, Elisabeth Nesheim, Álvaro Seiça, and Patricia Tomaszek made many presentations at international conferences related to digital media aesthetics and electronic literature, including four invited keynote addresses on the topic. Group leader Scott Rettberg also received two significant awards for creative work in the field, including the 2016 Robert Coover Award for a Work of Electronic Literature, the top award for a creative work in the field of electronic literature.

Scholarly work continues apace. Two PhD dissertations by Seiça and Tomaszek are expected to be completed in 2017, and Rettberg intends to complete his book-in-progress *Electronic Literature*, under contract with Polity Press, 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.

During the Spring 2016 semester, we renewed our collaboration with the Bergen Public Library, bringing three public events with electronic literature authors to Bergen audiences. 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 new collaborations with three universities: Jagellonian University in Krakow, Poland, the National University of Ireland-Galway, and City University of Hong Kong.

Funding received in 2016:

The research group did not receive direct funding under forskingsformål or små driftsmidler during 2015. We did receive SPIRE funding (100.000 NOK) engage in a research collaboration with City University of Hong Kong centered on the Poetics and Politics of Virtual Reality, which will result in two research workshops, the first of which was held in Hong Kong in December 2015. We are planning an event for May 2016 in Bergen.

Plans for 2017:

In 2017, two of our Ph.D. candidates will defend their dissertations. Bringing them to completion will be one of our primary goals. We will produce a seminar and exhibition focused on the relationship of virtual reality to poetics and political reality during the spring semester. We will likely apply for små driftsmidler in 2016 to widen the scope of this event and will consider 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 a new 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 2017 semester, and events will take place around their visits. During Autumn 2017, Scott Rettberg and Jill Walker Rettberg will be on research leave at Brown University and MIT University.