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# Freedom Narratives and Artifacts of African American Interpretation of Deuteronomy: Digital Humanities Approach

*A Data Management Plan created using DMPTool*

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## Project abstract:

The Book of Deuteronomy often lives in the shadow of the book of Exodus. Slavery provides the first period of interpretation of African American of the Book of Deuteronomy. Another source of African American interpretation comes out of the music of African American communities. A third source of interpretation is the preaching of the civil rights era culminating in the "Mountain Top" speech of Martin Luther King Jr. The assumption that African and African American interpretation began with the twentieth century turns a blind eye to pre-critical interpretation by Africana people, namely people from African and the African Diaspora. This research will partially remedy that deficit. Often North American interpreters forget the size and scope of Africa in antiquity and the p[resent]. For instance, early biblical interpreters Augustine and Tertullian were important African theologians using biblical material. The Arab conquest of Africa stand between the early African Christianity and the Middle Passage/Maafa. The relatively new appreciation of academic biblical scholars and theologians reading Scriptures with so-called regular readers provides a backdrop for this research.

Last modified: 11-17-2019

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## Data Collection

What data will you collect or create?

Secondary Downloaded Data:

- *Book 05: Deuteronomy*
  - File Name: Deuteronomy.txt
  - Format: Plain Text UTF-8
  - Source: Project Gutenberg, *The King James Bible*
  - Direct Link: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/10900>
  - Description: "The King James Version, also known as the King James Bible or simply the Version, is an English translation of the Christian Bible for the Church of England, begun in 1604 and completed as well as published in 1611 under the sponsorship of James VI and I." from Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King\\_James\\_Version](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_James_Version))
  - Downloaded: 09/2017
- *North American Slave Narratives*
  - File Name: NorthAmericanSlaveNarratives.zip
  - Format: Zip Archive containing Plain Text UTF-8
  - Source: University of North Carolina's *Documenting the American South*
  - Direct Link: <https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/>
  - Description: The *North American Slave Narratives* provides over 300 transcribed accounts from fugitive and former North American slaves
  - Downloaded: 09/2017

Generated Data:

- *Potential Fuzzy Text Matches*
  - File Name: PotentialTextMatches.txt
  - Format: Plain Text UTF-8
  - Description: Generated from 7-word ngrams from the North American Slave Narratives that matched with 50% similarity to 7-word ngrams in the Book of Deuteronomy. The fuzzy text matching algorithm used was *Partial Ratio*.
  - Completed: 09/2017
- *Confirmed Fuzzy Text Matches*
  - File Name: ConfirmedFuzzyTextMatches.csv
  - Format: Plain Text Comma Separated Values Table
  - Description: The *Potential Fuzzy Text Matches* were manually coded as actual reference to Deuteronomy or false positive. This dataset includes the manually confirmed references and the frequency counts to specific Deuteronomy passages.
  - Completed: 09/2019
- *Manually Coded Author Genders*
  - File Name: ManuallyCodedAuthorGenders.csv
  - Format: Plain Text Comma Separated Values Table
  - Description: Manually coded genders of (m,f,u) for each transcribed account from the *North American Slave Narratives*. Includes only manually confirmed fuzzy text matches.
  - Completed: 09/2019
- *Word Frequencies per Account*
  - File Name: AccountWordFrequencies.csv
  - Format: Plain Text Comma Separated Values Table
  - Description: Term frequencies (unigrams) per account in the *North American Slave Narratives*.
  - Completed: 09/2019
- *Freedom Narratives Exploratory Visualization*
  - File Name: FreedomNarrativesExploratoryVisualization.pbix
  - Format: Microsoft Power BI Report File (binary, requires Power BI to read)
  - Description: Interactive data report for exploratory data analysis consisting of three visualizations. First, a column chart representing the proportion of male, female, and un-identifiable. Second, a treemap representing the proportion of Deuteronomy passages cited by the narratives. Third, a word cloud representing the top 75 words from narratives, with stop words removed. Using Power BI interactivity, selecting any of the features in these three visualizations will filter the other two visualizations.
  - Completed: 10/2019

How will the data be collected or created?

Collected data will be downloaded. Created data will be created manually, via Python, and via Microsoft Power BI. Specific details in previous

section.

## Documentation and Metadata

What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?

An accompanying Readme.txt file will describe each file and the contents of each file.

## Ethics and Legal Compliance

How will you manage any ethical issues?

Permission for The King James Bible:

- This eBook is for the use of anyone anywhere at no cost and with almost no restrictions whatsoever. You may copy it, give it away or re-use it under the terms of the Project Gutenberg License included with this eBook or online at [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)

Permission for Documenting the American South:

- Permission was expressly provided by the UNC Library for use within our text data mining research, and for publishing the results of our research in conference and journal papers.

How will you manage copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IP/IPR) issues?

n/a

## Storage and Backup

How will the data be stored and backed up during the research?

In a shared folder on Box. The Box account is provided by Baylor University.

How will you manage access and security?

Our Box folder is connected to Baylor's Active Service Directory, requiring authentication with username, password, and Duo authentication via mobile device. Access is currently provided only to Stephen Reid and Joshua Been.

## Selection and Preservation

Which data are of long-term value and should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?

The following data that should be retained, shared, and preserved for a period of 5 years. After the 5 years, we can reevaluate its value. All files are in plain text.

- Potential Fuzzy Text Matches
- Confirmed Fuzzy Text Matches
- Manually Coded Author Genders
- Word Frequencies per Account

What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?

The four files will be shared in BEARData, Baylor's instance of the Texas Data Repository.

## Data Sharing

How will you share the data?

The Texas Data Repository is a publicly searchable repository.

Are any restrictions on data sharing required?

None

## **Responsibilities and Resources**

Who will be responsible for data management?

Joshua Been, Digital Scholarship Librarian, Baylor University Libraries

What resources will you require to deliver your plan?

Support and assistance from Christina Chan-Park, Science Librarian and research data management specialist at Baylor University.