Nell Nelson Project Proposal

The Restoration of Nell Nelson seeks to digitize Nell Nelson’s instrumental work in exposing the cruel and unsanitary working conditions of Chicago’s manufacturing industry of the late 19th century. Nelson’s series “City Slave Girls” was published in *The Chicago Times* in late July 1888. Nelson was a pioneer of investigative reporting; her work exposed the mistreatment of women and children working in the newly-industrialized Chicago. Nelson’s satirical and witty writing gained attention from Chicago’s political representatives, as well as the owners of the very industries she scrutinized. The “City Slave Girls” series is a monumental achievement for women’s rights, labor conditions, and undercover journalism.

Nelson’s work is underrepresented and deserves to be recognized in a modern context.

Our team transcribed and coded the newspaper articles in XML using the TEI guidelines. We converted the XML into HTML using XSLT. JavaScript and CSS were used to style the website and highlight aspects of our markup. SVG was used to create data visualizations: bar graphs representing amount of dialogue associated with gender and archetypal speaker. XSLT was used to create a series of tables containing nouns and their associated adjectives and possessive pronouns, highlighting Nelson’s distinct vocabulary.

In the same year Nelson’s articles were published in *The Chicago Times*, her work was featured in two book publications: *City Slave Girls* from Barkley Publishing Co. in 1888 and *The White Slave Girls of Free America* by John T. McEnnis.

Future development aims to cerate a system of versioning between the newspaper articles and the books. Additionally, we plan to expand grammatical markup of all texts to include verbs.

For further information, visit our website: http://nelson.newtfire.org