**Why Open Access to Manuscripts Matters**

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**The Situation**

* Libraries are beginning to digitize their collections
* Some of these collections are going on the internet
* And some of those are made available under Creative Commons Licenses
* Some Resources:
  + E-Codices: http://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/en
  + French National Library: http://gallica.bnf.fr/?lang=EN
  + Munich Digitization Center: http://www.digitale-sammlungen.de/?c=sammlungen&l=en
  + DigiPal: http://www.digipal.eu/
  + The British Library: http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/
  + The Houghton Library: http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/houghton/collections/early\_manuscripts/about.cfm#collection
  + The Bodleian Libraries: http://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/
* How do we best take advantage of these growing resources?

**Philologists**

* Changing how we create an edition
  + Old way: traveling to various libraries and selecting the “best” readings from the “best” manuscripts for a critical edition
  + New way: working with high resolution photography that improves our ability to record readings accurately
* Changing how we define an edition
  + Print edition: a critical reading with the best readings
  + Digital edition: a multitext that includes every reading and offers customizable viewings
* Changing how we can write about texts
  + Referencing an image and actually being able to show it through linking or embedding

**Graduate and Undergraduate Students**

* Redefining who gets access
  + Open digital access means you don’t need a PhD to see whatever manuscript you want
* Citizen scholarship, how students can conduct meaningful research
  + Going beyond crowdsourcing, paid internships, and course credit
  + Fostering an academic environment that encourages students to contribute meaningfully to the field and their studies
  + Changing traditional academic hierarchies
* Links:
  + The Holy Cross Manuscripts, Inscriptions, and Documents Club: http://hcmid.github.io/
  + HMT Editors on GitHub: http://hmteditors.github.io/
  + Crane, Gregory. “Opening up Classics and the Humanities: Computation, the Homer Multitext Project and Citizen Science.” September 2014. http://tinyurl.com/okg6uqc

**Middle and High School Students and Their Teachers**

* Digital literacy and moving forward
  + Where and when do we start teaching digital research skills to best benefit the discipline?
  + What kinds of skills do we start teaching students to better prepare them for the types of research we want to do?

**Conclusions**

More resources are at our fingertips than ever before. We need to be thoughtful about how we use them and we need to increase our access to more and more resources. We also need to consider who can now do research and the kinds of skills they need to be taught in order to do productive research

**Additional Links**

* Homer Multitext homepage: www.homermultitext.org
* Homer Multitext manuscript browsers: http://www.homermultitext.org/hmt-digital/home
* Allen, T. W. “On the Composition of Some Greek Manuscripts.” Journal of Philology 26 (1899): 161–181. http://www.homermultitext.org/pd-pdfs/Allen-JP-1899.pdf.
* The Digital Classicist: http://www.digitalclassicist.org/
* Digital Humanities Now: http://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/

Additional copies of this handout and the slides from this presentation may be found at: https://github.com/StephanieML/CANE2015

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