



SOUTHERN SPACES

An internet journal and scholarly forum

Southern Spaces: A Collaborative Model for Open Source Scholarly Publishing

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Presentation Overview

- The “roots” of *Southern Spaces*
- Problems with print publications
- Benefits of online publishing
- Why Open Access?
- Why publish within a library?
 - Feasible?
 - Sustainable?



The Roots of *Southern Spaces*

MetaScholar Initiative (www.metascholar.org)

- Seeks to provide improved means of sharing information about research collections through
 - metadata aggregation networks (OAI-PMH)
 - new forms of peer-reviewed scholarship using digital media
 - frameworks for cooperative digital library services distributed across multiple universities
- Also strives to create a new model for online scholarship
 - Scholarly Design Team
 - need for modular pieces that suit the new media



Problems with Print Publications

(as identified by the MetaScholar Scholarly Design Team)

The SDT pointed to the following problems in humanities-based scholarly print publishing:

- Expense (increasingly shouldered by scholars and libraries)
- Static
- Backlog
- Limited to text/black and white images
- Narrow audience



Problems in Scholarly Publishing

(as identified more broadly)

With the advent of the internet, new problems have been introduced for scholarly publishing:

Non-profit model: (Societies, University Presses)	For-profit model: (Elsevier, Bertelsmann)
Scholars develop ideas, and give them to publishers at little/no charge	Scholars develop ideas, and are <i>charged</i> for their publication
Publishers sell the scholars' works back to the scholarly community	Publishers sell the scholars' works back to scholars at escalated cost
Libraries pay subscription fees to obtain permanent copies of journals	Libraries often pay subscriptions for access only, not for keeps



Benefits of Internet Publications

(as identified by the MetaScholar SDT)

The Scholarly Design Team pointed to the following benefits in *open access* web-based publishing:

- Scholarly innovation
- Encourages collaboration
- Broader access
- No expense to readers



Southern Spaces seeks to expand the capabilities of scholarly publication in two seminal ways:

- First, by reexamining the relationship between **form and content**, moving scholarship toward new multimedia explorations of topics that cannot be managed in traditional print formats.
- Second, by exploring the possibility of the **library** taking on a new role as a publishing center for scholarly work.



Southern Spaces design:

Form and Content

Southern Spaces addresses several important needs in academic publishing:

- Few existing models for web-based journals that treat the medium as more than an inexpensive text publishing tool
 - PostModern Culture: <http://www.iath.virginia.edu/pmc/>
- Editorial Board recommended that *Southern Spaces* distinguish itself in part by seeking to make full use of the medium



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The *Différance* of the World: Homage to Jacques Derrida

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1. With the death of Jacques Derrida, the world has lost one of its greatest philosophers, as well as one of the most controversial and misunderstood. But then, controversy and misunderstanding are part and parcel of philosophical greatness. Plato is still controversial and misunderstood, and is still our contemporary. So are René Descartes, Immanuel Kant, and Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, to name, by way of an Einsteinian metaphor, arguably the heaviest philosophical masses that define and shape, *curve*, the space of modern philosophy. Derrida is no exception, especially because his work in turn transforms the *fabric* of this space by its own mass and by its engagement with these figures. Modern physics no longer thinks of space as ever empty but instead as a kind of fabric or, to use the Latin word, *textum* of energy, or (once we think of the quantum fabric of this never empty space) that of energy and chance. So one might as well use this rather Derridean idea--of a *textum* of energy

chance. So one might as well use this rather Derridean idea--of a *textum* of energy and chance--as a metaphor for the field of philosophy. The fortunes of Derrida's philosophy, or "his chances," lie partly in the controversy surrounding his work ("My Chances" 1).

2. Derrida's greatness, like that of Plato, Descartes, Kant, and Hegel, lies in the originality and power of his ideas, his lucidity and precision in expressing them, and in the rigor of his analysis--qualities his detractors often unjustly deny him. These are the qualities that primarily define his chances, in the play "of chance and necessity in calculations without end," as Derrida said in 1967 in assessing the chances of *différance*, his most famous term, "neither a *word* nor a *concept*," with which he was taking considerable philosophical risks at the time (*Margins of Philosophy* 7; emphasis added). Derrida has been appreciated for these qualities by a great many of his readers, his admirers and his fair-minded critics alike. It would only be faithful to the spirit and the letter of Derrida's work and deconstruction to question, incessantly question his argument. But to be faithful to the spirit of true intellectual inquiry, one must do so in a fair-minded way in order, with and against Derrida, to move our thought forward.
3. Derrida's works are complex because they explore the ultimate complexity (intellectual, ethical, cultural, and political) of our world. One might even argue that a refusal to engage seriously with his thought and writing is often a refusal to confront this ultimate complexity, perhaps in particular insofar as this complexity is also that of the world that has moved from modernity to postmodernity and is defined by this transition. I would argue that, although extraordinary in many other respects, Derrida's thought reflects, and reflects on, this movement wherever it occurs in our culture. "What has seemed necessary and urgent to me, in *the historical situation which is our own*," Derrida said in 1971, in describing his earlier work, "is a general determination of the conditions for the emergence and the limits of philosophy, of metaphysics, of everything that carries it on and that it carries on" (*Positions* 51; emphasis added). Derrida's concerns and domains of investigation change and extend to literature, ethics, politics, and elsewhere, although Derrida continued the



Why Open Access?

Scholars reach the widest possible audience

- Freely available as a publication

The author(s) and copyright holder(s) grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, worldwide, perpetual right of access to, and a license to copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly

- Hosted with **long-term intent**

A complete version of the work is published in at least one online repository that is supported by an academic institution, scholarly society, government agency, or other well-established organization that seeks to enable open access, unrestricted distribution, interoperability, and long-term archiving

Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing
(April 2003)



Southern Spaces design:

Why publish within a library?

- Various publication formats, specifically designed for this medium
 - Submissions accepted in part on the basis of their appropriateness for this medium
- Rolling publication—no volume/issue
- Permanent locations for urls (library quality publication)
- Archival quality image, sound, and video files ***kept at Emory***
- Regular updates of content (versioning ***with*** peer review)
- Cataloging information / metadata construction
- Globally, freely, instantly accessible publication

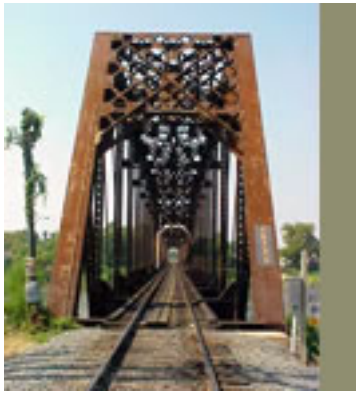


SOUTHERN SPACES

Key Feature:

Pioneering new model for how to conduct scholarship on the web, not by simply using the web as a dissemination medium for print publications, but by using the strengths of this medium to go beyond the limitations of print.

<http://www.southernspaces.org>



What it took to get *Southern Spaces* up and running:

- Four year process (to date), launched one year ago
- Cultivating a committed Editorial Board
- Building relationship with systems (server space, hosting forms such as streaming media files)
- Designing the site itself
- Creating library-oriented standards, submission guidelines
- Cultivating new submissions (inertia, resistance)

Southern Spaces Credits

Katherine Skinner

Managing Editor

Martin Halbert

Principal Advisor and Sponsor

Allen Tullos

Editorial Board Chair

Steve Bransford

Digital Media Coordinator

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