

# Hannah Alpert-Abrams

The John Carter Brown Library, Brown University  
Box 1894, Providence, RI 02912  
halperta@gmail.com  
<http://www.halperta.com>

## EDUCATION

---

PhD	Comparative Literature, The University of Texas at Austin Diss. Title: Unreadable Books: Early Colonial Mexican Documents in Circulation Diss. Director: Matt Cohen, Department of English	August 2017
MA	Comparative Literature, The University of Texas at Austin	May 2013
BA	English, <i>summa cum laude</i> , Oberlin College	May 2007

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

---

2018-2019	Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of the Book in the Americas The John Carter Brown Library, Brown University
2017-2018	CLIR Postdoctoral Fellow in Data Curation and Latin American Studies LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections, The University of Texas at Austin

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- [2019] Hannah Alpert-Abrams, David Bliss, and Itza Carbajal. "Post-Custodial Archiving for the Collective Good." *Journal of Critical Library and Information Science*. *Forthcoming*
- [2019] Tamy Guberek, Velia Muralles, and Hannah Alpert-Abrams. "'Irreversible': The Role of Digitization to Repurpose State Records of Repression." *International Journal of Transitional Justice*. *Forthcoming*.
- 2018 "Colonial Copying in an Imperial Age." Decolonial Computing Roundtable. *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience*. Vol. 4, No. 2.
- 2016 "Machine Reading the Primeros Libros." *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 10.4.
- 2016 "Representing the Long History of Early Modern Printed Objects: The Archaeology of a Book." *Scholarly Editing*, Vol. 37.

### Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings

- 2017 Maria Ryskina, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick, Hannah Alpert-Abrams, and Dan Garrette. "Compositor Attribution in the First Folio of Shakespeare." In *Proc. of the Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics*: Vancouver, British Columbia.
- 2016 Dan Garrette and Hannah Alpert-Abrams. "An Unsupervised Model of Orthographic Variation for Historical Document Transcription." In *Proc. of the Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics*: San Diego, California.
- 2015 Dan Garrette, Hannah Alpert-Abrams, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick, and Dan Klein. "Unsupervised Code-Switching for Multilingual Historical Document Transcription." In *Proc. of the Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics*: Denver, Colorado.

### Book Reviews

- 2016 Hannah Alpert-Abrams and Matt Cohen. *Yearbook of English Studies, Volume 45: The History of the Book*. Edited by Sandro Jung and Stephen Colclough. *SHARP News*. <http://bit.ly/2cRYMHq>
- 2014 *Into the Archive: Writing and Power in Colonial Peru* by Kathryn Burns. *E3W Review of Books*.

#### Other Publications

- 2018 "Seminar Celebrates Collaboration with Guatemala on Human Rights Archives." *Tex Libris*.
- 2018 Alex Galarza and Hannah Alpert-Abrams. "Partnering on Digital Archives and Human Rights in Guatemala." *Re:Thinking*. <https://goo.gl/jEvK5d>
- 2017 Hannah Alpert-Abrams and Maria Victoria Fernandez. "Reading the First Books: Colonial Mexican Documents in the Digital Age." *Portal: Web Magazine of LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections*.

#### Manuscripts in Progress

- [2018] "An Unexpected Influence: Photostats in American libraries, 1912-1915." *American Quarterly*. In submission.
- [2019] "Critical Digital Archives." *Anglia*. In preparation.

#### DIGITAL PROJECTS

---

- 2017-2018 *Digital Portal to the Archivo Histórico de la Policía Nacional de Guatemala*. Managing the post-custodial partnership between the University of Texas and the AHPN.
- 2015-2017 *Reading the First Books*. Developing tools for the automatic transcription of early modern printed books. <http://sites.utexas.edu/firstbooks>
- 2016 *The Archaeology of a Book: An experimental approach to reading rare books in archival contexts*. <http://scalar.usc.edu/works/advertencias/index>

#### GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

---

- 2018 *Collaborative Institutional Partner Fellowship*. John Carter Brown Library.
- 2018 *SHARP New Scholars Bursary: DHSI 2018*.
- 2016 *Helen Watson Buckner Fellowship*. John Carter Brown Library. Project title: "Acquisition of Mexicana at the John Carter Brown Library."
- 2016 *The BSA-Pine Tree Foundation Fellowship in Hispanic Bibliography*. Bibliographical Society of America. Project title: "Legacies of Colonial Mexican Printing: Taller Martín Pescador."
- 2016 *University Graduate Continuing Fellowship*. University of Texas at Austin.
- 2016 *E.D. Farmer International Fellowship*. LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections.
- 2016 *University of Texas at Austin Graduate School Summer Fellowship*.
- 2015 *Digital Humanities Implementation Grant*. National Endowment for the Humanities. Project Director: Sergio Romero. Project Title: "Reading the First Books."
- 2014 *Tinker Field Research Grant*. Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2014 *Oberlin Alumni Fellowship*. Oberlin College.
- 2013 SHARP-CalRBS Scholarship: History of the Book in Hispanic America.

#### INVITED TALKS

---

- Sept 2018 "Critical Digital Archives." Collected Academics Speakers Series. Arizona State University, Tempe.
- May 2018 William and Mary Quarterly-Early Modern Studies Institute. Los Angeles, CA.
- Apr 2018 "Transcribing Multilingual and Historical Documents." Digital Jumpstart Workshops. The University of Kansas: Lawrence, Kansas.
- Jan 2018 "The Perfect Copy: Photolithography, Photostats, and the Copying of Colonial History." The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
- Nov 2017 "Transcribing Multilingual Documents in the Digital Age." University of Houston: Houston, TX.
- Apr 2017 "Introduction to Automatic Transcription." Brown University Libraries: Providence, Rhode Island.
- Nov 2015 "Reading the First Books." John Carter Brown Library, Providence, Rhode Island.

## CONFERENCES

---

### *Papers Presented*

- [May 2019] “‘An Unexpected Influence’: Photostats, Libraries, and the Circulation of Documentary Heritage.” Latin American Studies Association: Boston, MA.
- July, 2018 “Enseñanza Colectiva con Archivos Digitales.” *Archivos y Derechos Humanos: Experiencia de Colaboracion entre AHPN y La Universidad de Texas*.
- Jun 2018 “Eternal Sunrise: Digital life cycles and long-term preservation for social justice archives.” Digital Humanities 2018: Mexico City, MX.
- Jun 2018 “Building Early Colonial Corpora for Digital Scholarship.” Digital Humanities 2018. Mexico City, MX.
- Sep 2017 *An Unexpected Influence: Photostat Machines in Colonial Libraries, 1895-1915*. Book History and Digital Humanities: Madison, Wisconsin.
- Jan 2017 Panelist: *Acknowledging Boundary Conditions: Opening the Black Box of Creating Access to Digitized Collections*. Modern Language Association: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Sep 2016 *Esta ãphibologia no ay ã latin: Machine reading linguistic hybridity in the Primeros Libros*. 3er Encuentro de Humanidades Digitales: Ciudad de México, México.
- May 2016 Panelist: *The Electronic Edition of Colonial and Nineteenth-Century Latin America Texts*. Latin American Studies Association: New York, New York.
- Jan 2016 *Printed Books as Digital Textual Objects: the case of the Advertencias para los confesores de los Naturales*. Modern Language Association Conference: Austin, Texas.
- May 2015 *Machine Reading in the Mexican Colonial Archive: OCR and the Primeros Libros*. Joint Meeting of the Association for Documentary Editing and the Society for Textual Scholarship: Lincoln, Nebraska.
- May 2015 *Automatic Transcription in Colonial Contexts (poster)*. Texas Digital Humanities Consortium Conference: Arlington, Texas.
- Mar. 2014 *Reading the Primeros Libros: From Archive to OCR*. American Comparative Literature Association Conference: Seattle, Washington.
- Oct. 2014 *On Pretzelcoatl: Aztecs in Popular U.S. literature*. GRACLS Conference: Austin, Texas.
- Apr. 2014 *From Archival Network to Digital Archive: Digital Repatriation and the Advertencias para los Confesores de los Naturales*. Texas Digital Humanities Consortium Conference: Houston, Texas.
- Apr. 2013 *Hybrid Romances in Borges and Baudelaire*. American Comparative Literature Association Conference: Toronto, Canada.
- Oct. 2012 *Drunken Archives*. GRACLS Conference: Austin, Texas.

### *Panels Organized*

- [May 2019] (Co-Organizer): “Designing ADRELA: The Alliance for Digital Research on Early Latin America.” Latin American Studies Association: Boston, MA.
- Jun 2018 (Co-Organizer): “Social Justice, Data Curation, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies.” Digital Humanities 2018. Mexico City, MX.
- Jun 2018 (Co-Organizer): “Digital Humanities and Colonial Latin American Studies.” Digital Humanities 2018. Mexico City, MX.
- Oct 2017 (Co-organizer): “Mediascapes of the Colonial Americas: The Digital Materialities of New World Inscription.” Book History and Digital Humanities: Madison, Wisconsin.
- Fall 2014 (Co-organizer) “On Pretzelcoatl: Aztecs in popular U.S. literature.” GRACLS Conference: Austin, Texas.
- Fall 2012 “On Memory and Archives.” GRACLS Conference: Austin, Texas.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

### *Teaching Appointments*

- 2018-2019 Postdoctoral Fellow, John Carter Brown Library and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Brown University.
- Fall 2018 Lecturer, Latin American Studies Program, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2015 Digital Scholarship Teaching Assistant, LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2013-2014 Assistant Instructor, Department of Rhetoric and Composition, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2013-2014 Writing Consultant, Undergraduate Writing Center, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2011-2013 Teaching Assistant, Department of English, University of Texas at Austin.

### *Courses Taught*

- History of the Book in the Americas (Undergraduate Seminar) (Co-instructor)
- Critical Digital Archives (Graduate seminar) (Co-instructor of record)
- Modern Central America: Digital Archives (Graduate seminar) (Co-instructor)
- The Rhetoric of Science Writing (Undergraduate seminar) (Instructor of record)
- Rhetoric and Composition (Undergraduate seminar) (Instructor of record)
- Masterworks of English and American Literature (Teaching assistant)

### *Guest Lectures*

- Apr 2018 Facsimile Reproduction. *Reading Books in the Digital Age*. University of Texas English Department. Austin, Texas.
- Mar 2017 Automatic Transcription. *English 381.01: Gutenberg to Google Books*. Stevenson University English Department. Stevenson, Maryland.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

- [2018-2019] Co-author: "The Pedagogy of Digitization: Guatemalan Records of Human Rights and Historical Memory." *Clio Microgrant*.
- [2017-2019] Consultant: "Text in Situ: Reasoning about Visual Information in the Computational Analysis of Books." Carnegie Mellon University. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Principal Investigator: Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick.
- [2017-2018] Participant: "Historical and Multilingual OCR Working Group." Northeastern University. Funded by the Mellon Foundation. Principal Investigators: Ryan Cordell and David Smith.
- 2015-2017 Manager: "Reading the First Books" Project. University of Texas at Austin. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. PI: Sergio Romero.
- Spring 2015 Graduate Research Assistant in Digital Scholarship. Supervisor: Kent Norsworthy.

## SERVICE TO PROFESSION

---

### *Manuscript and Proposal Review*

- 2018 National Endowment for the Humanities Office of Digital Humanities.
- 2018 Journal of Critical Library and Information Science.
- 2018 PMLA.
- 2018 Digital Humanities Quarterly.

### *Abstract Review*

- 2018 Digital Humanities 2018 Conference.
- 2018 Digital Frontiers Conference.

#### University Service

- 2018-2019 Moderator: Book History Working Group. Brown University.  
2018-Pres. Member: Digital Library Federation Primary Sources Subgroup.  
2018 Moderator: Archives and Social Justice Reading Group. University of Texas at Austin.  
2017-2018 Search Committee (member). Postdoctoral fellow. LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections, University of Texas at Austin.  
2018 Founder: Postdoctoral Laborers.  
2017 Student Liaison: Placement Committee. *Comparative Literature*, University of Texas at Austin.  
2014-2017 Creator: *Comparative Literature Digital Repository*.  
2014 Section Editor: "Digital Communities". *E3W Review of Books*.  
Jan 2016 Organizing Committee: "THATCamp: Digital Pedagogy." Austin, Texas.  
Fall 2013 Co-Organizer: "What We Read: Materiality, Narrative, Text." GRACLS Conference: Austin, Texas.

#### Extracurricular University Service

- 2014-2015 Blog Co-Editor. *Pterodáctilo: revista de arte, literatura, lingüística y cultura*.  
Fall 2014 Blog Editor. *Praxis: a Writing Center Journal*.  
2012-2013 Fiction Co-Editor. *Bat City Review*.

#### ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

---

- Jun 2018 Digital Humanities Summer Inst.: "Race, Social Justice, and DH: Applied Theories and Methods."  
Oct 2017 Fedora Camp Texas. University of Texas Libraries.  
Jul 2017 Summer Seminar in the History of the Book in American Culture: "Other Languages, Other America," at the American Antiquarian Society.  
May 2015 Graduate Student Symposium of the Cultural Analytics Conference at the University of Chicago.  
Aug 2013 California Rare Books School: History of the Book in Hispanic America.

#### LANGUAGES

---

English	Native
Spanish	Reading: Superior, Speaking: Conversational
French	Reading: Intermediate
Colonial Nahuatl	Reading: Beginner

#### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

---

*Latin American Studies Association*  
*Modern Language Association*  
*Red de humanidades digitales (RedHD)*  
*The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing*  
*Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations*