Project Endings Meeting Notes

30 April 2018

Present: Stewart Arneil, Claire Carlin, John Durno, Lisa Goddard, Elizabeth Grove-White (on Skype), Martin Holmes, Janelle Jenstad, Greg Newton, Joey Takada.

BUDGET

The end-of-year budget review will be posted to GitHub.

$86,260.65 is available for the 2018 fiscal year.

Projected expenses for **Research Assistants**:

Emily Comeau has been hired to work on the interviews, with a quarter to a third of her time on *Mariage.*

Approximately 480 hours, May 1 – August 31, $12,931

Sarah Kell

200 hours on *Moses*, $5,388

Another RA will be hired to help with interview transcription.

**Travel:**

Ewa and Sarah will likely attend 2019 the International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation in Honolulu, for a cost of around $2,560.

Martin will attend DH and the Japanese DH society’s conference in Japan.

SURVEY, INTERVIEWS

**Multiple-choice survey:**

65 full responses

59 incomplete

**Interviews:**

The third interview, with Sarah Diamond, President of OCAD, took place on April 16 (team: Durno, Grove-White, Newton). Emily is trying to organize a follow-up interview S. Diamond’s colleague, Sarah Cook.

Emily estimates a minimum of three hours for transcription and encoding of each interview. With a total of 33 volunteers, we may not be able to interview all but we will ask Emily to continue scheduling, with teams of two interviewers and a back-up. Each team should include one academic and one technical expert, with Librarians serving as either (or both).

The current plan is to privilege transcription. Interviewers, readers and RAs will look for recurring big themes to include in the Project Endings tool kits, thereby fulfilling the most immediate goal of the survey and interviews. Early examples include rights management, collaboration issues, and trust (both interpersonal and institutional).

Once this over-arching taxonomy is created, we will be able to examine each theme in more depth in order to prepare conference papers and publications. The interviews can, for example, be tagged according to keywords, perhaps discovered using VOYANT tools (local version). We can also perform traditional comparative textual analysis. We may choose also to consult someone with social science expertise at this point in order to refine our methods.

DOCUMENTATION

Janelle has as usual been working on documenting documentation for her projects, and she will present on this subject in Rome (see Outputs). Martin is working on documentation using Alison Chapman’s project, based on what he has already done with Sara Harvey’s Registres de la Comédie Française. Kim Blank’s Keats project will also provide a testing ground. Joey is working on documentation strategies for the Stratford Festival Online (SFO). The methodology for documentation is a central question for the Project Endings team.

OUTPUTS

KULA issue on Endangered Knowledge: Samantha MacFarlane allowed us to re-submit our project report with a not added about the fragility of our WordPress site—another cautionary tale to be added to a future publication. The KULA editors have now contacted us to ask for elaboration of certain points in our 750-word project report, presumably meaning that it will become longer.

Stewart will be at Stanford in two weeks for a preservation seminar. Researchers will present the projects, then six experts, of whom Stew is one, will address the preservation issues raised.

Janelle will present in Rome for a working group for urban gazeteers, seven of whom are just starting their projects. Her insights on documentation should be particularly valuable to this group.

The TEI conference takes place in Tokyo in September at the same time as the Japanese Association for DH, so Martin will be able to present Endings-related material at one or both.

WORDPRESS SITE

Given the problems with the Endings WordPress site (the University can take it down without notice, with no backup, and trawling by the Wayback Machine blocked), we need to convert to an Endings-compliant site to show our work publicly in an easy-to-access fashion. After discussion of the alternatives, it was decided that Martin would set up an HTML site that can be easily updated.