Project Endings Meeting Notes

25 June 2018

Present: Stewart Arneil, Claire Carlin, Emily Comeau, John Durno, Martin Holmes,

Report from Emily on the interviews:

Interviews conducted so far: 18

Transcribed: 8, 3 IP

Encoded with basic XML: 8

Scheduled: 7

No reply: 8

Emily asked if she should send a second email to colleagues who volunteered to be interviewed but who did not respond to her first email. We decided that the sample size of 25 didn’t warrant pursuing other interviews, with the exception of Dene Grigar at WSU Vancouver whose work some of us know.

Emily wondered about interviewing members of the Endings team. There was concern that this might skew the data.

Analysis of the interviews: research question(s) and methodology

Emily explained a methodology that seems to correspond to our needs: “grounded theory,” where themes emerge from a fairly close reading of the text of the interviews.

The process:

* All team members will read at least two interviews, to be assigned randomly by Emily.
* This fairly quick reading will allow broad topics to emerge. Once everyone has submitted their lists, the Endings team will meet to agree on these themes.
* The themes will appear in the xml header of the interviews. Research Assistants Emily and Danny will then tag the interviews in a more fine-grained way, noting distinct ideas in the form of more descriptive and detailed “codes,” in the language of social sciences methodology. Each code can be assigned to one or more themes. The codes will reflect what was said in the interview, not the reader’s judgement about it. Emily and Danny will work together to assure inter-coder reliability and consistency.
* Discussion of tags and the process of analysis will be ongoing, through email as well as in informal chats and meetings.

Martin pointed out that we never properly formulated a research question for the interviews—thereby breaking our own rules about project planning... The questions he came up with on the fly:

* Why do projects disappear?
* How do projects survive?

map well onto the related research questions we included in the Summary of our SSHRC application, which were:

* How do and how should DH projects conclude?
* How should we preserve projects to retain their dynamic features?
* Where should projects be archived?

Next meetings

Many of us are away for chunks of the summer but when we’re ready to discuss tags Claire or Emily will do a Doodle poll to see who can participate in person.

An August brown bag is proposed for Monday the 20th as Emily will be moving to Vancouver during the last week in August.