



Book History With Heurist

The challenges and potential of a databasing platform

L'Histoire du livre avec Heurist

Enjeux et potentiels d'une plateforme de base de données



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Programme

Thursday, October the 13th / Jeudi, 13 octobre

TIME / TEMPS	SESSION	SPEAKERS / CONFÉRENCIERS
10:00-11:00 CEST	Opening Session / Session d'ouverture	
10:00-10:10 CEST	Welcome / Bienvenue	Simon Dagenais (Universität Trier)
10:10-11:00 CEST 19:10-20:00 AEDT	<i>Workshop</i> : Data Structures for Book History	Michael Falk (University of Sydney) Ian Johnson (University of Sydney)
11:00-13:00 CEST	English Session	
11:00-12:00 CEST	<i>Keynote</i> : The development of French Book Trade in Enlightenment Europe (FBTEE) with Heurist	Simon Burrows (Western Sydney University)
12:00-12:30 CEST 21:00-21:30 AEDT	<i>Paper</i> : 150,000 records in 1 year with no coding experience	Rebekah Ward (Western Sydney University)
12:30-13:00 CEST 05:30-06:00 CDT	<i>Paper</i> : Libros en Navarra Books in Navarre	Alexandra Wingate (Indiana University)
13:00-14:00 CEST	Lunch / Dejeuner	
14:00-16:00 CEST	Session française	
14:00-15:00 CEST	<i>Keynote</i> : HORAE – Reconnaissance de l'écriture manuscrite, catégorisation automatique, éditions	Dominique Stutzmann (IHRT / CNRS)
15:00-15:30 CEST	<i>Paper</i> : La constitution d'un répertoire des chansons de trouvères des XIIe et XIIIe siècles avec Heurist	Emmanuelle Dantan (Université de Strasbourg)
15:30-16:00 CEST	<i>Paper</i> : La base de données du projet ERC Pamphlets and Patrons	Simon Dagenais (Universität Trier) Damien Tricoire (Universität Trier)

Abstracts / Résumés

Michael Falk and Ian Johnson | Data Structures for Book History

Books are complex objects. Books are literary creations, proliferations of versions, collections of physical or digital objects, experiences in reader's minds. Books also lead exciting lives. They are conceived, written, re-written, overwritten, published, praised, reviewed, censured, censored, lost, copied, quoted, printed, bound, split, read, ignored, burnt, sold, smuggled, stolen, pirated, broadcast, downloaded, translated, pastiched, and transformed. For these reasons, books are hard to pin down. How can the Bible, *Laozi* or *L'oeuvres de Simone Weil* be represented in a research database? How can all the different aspects of a book's complex existence be modelled? How can the many different events in a book's life be categorised?

In this workshop, Drs Michael Falk and Ian Johnson will present an attempt to provide a template Book History database in Heurist. Heurist is an increasingly popular platform for book history research, as this conference demonstrates. As more book historians turn to Heurist, our understanding of best practices in book history databasing have improved. A book history database is not the same thing as a library catalogue. It is more like a traditional prosopographical database, only the 'biographies' recorded in a book history database are the biographies of books as well as people.

After presenting the database, the session will adopt a workshop format. Participants will be invited to engage with the template database, to provide feedback and develop new ideas about the process of turning books into data.

Ian Johnson is Designer at Heurist, a Humanities databasing platform developed at the University of Sydney. He is a trained archaeologist, with more than 40 years experience in Humanities databasing. He has overseen the development of Heurist for 15 years.

Michael Falk is Community Technical Adviser at Heurist. He works with Heurist researchers to design and publish their research data. Michael is a literary scholar and data scientist. His publications appear in *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews*, the *Journal of the Association for Studies in Australian Literature*, *Frontiers in Robotics and AI*, the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Literary Theory* and elsewhere. His first book, *Romanticism and the Contingent Self*, will appear with Palgrave in 2023.

Keynote #1 Simon Burrows | The development of French Book Trade in Enlightenment Europe (FBTEE) with Heurist

In November 2019, on the strength of a public demonstration and private discussion with Ian Johnson, I took a somewhat impulsive decision to migrate my French Book Trade in Enlightenment Europe (FBTEE) project to Heurist. This paper discusses the reasons I did so, the process and the results, as well as how we compensated for or replaced any functionality lost in the migration.

This was not a trivial undertaking. By 2019, FBTEE was one of the more venerable medium-scale, complex collaborative research projects around, and had employed the energies of over 20 researchers and developers. Since 2007 FBTEE has been gathering data from disparate sources on the late eighteenth century pan-European book trade and attracted more than \$A 1M in funding from the British Arts and Humanities Research

Council, Western Sydney University, Leeds University and the Australian Research Council, and in 2016 it was awarded the prestigious British Society for Eighteenth Century Studies Digital Resource Prize.

Over its fifteen-year existence, the project has had a series of developers, migrated internationally and between bespoke platforms, and become increasingly structurally complex as its focus has expanded. Furthermore, some of our data had been held in separate silos, so significant data manipulation was required (regardless of platform) to create a uniform resource.

In this paper I hope to show how Heurist made this all achievable and how both FBTEE and Heurist have been enhanced by our engagement. Further, I will outline a series of collateral benefits, including freeing me from dependence on developers, university support and funding to advance my work (though funding obviously helps); the ways in which Heurist has allowed me to help train a cadre of Computing students and support colleagues to establish projects, and the ways it has been employed in partner projects, including an innovative database cohabitation with the ERC-funded Pamphlets and Patrons project. As a result, it has removed for me many of the anxieties which, as Dan Edelstein has written, seem to be the common heritage of DH researchers (even, apparently, at institutions as well funded as Stanford).

The presentation will end with a demonstration of the online user interface for the new, expanded FBTEE database, which is due to be launched around the time of the Workshop.

Simon Burrows is Professor of French History and Leader of the Digital Humanities Research Initiative at Western Sydney University. He is a historian of the French Enlightenment, and a pioneer in the field of historical bibliometrics. The author or editor of six books and more than 30 major chapters and articles, Simon is now working on a book arising from the French Book Trade in Enlightenment Europe project.

Rebekah Ward | 150,000 records in 1 year with no coding experience

My research is centred upon a large archive of historical business records related to Angus & Robertson, an Australian bookseller and publisher. The Archive contains millions of documents – none of which have been digitised. Confronted by that scale in my PhD project, I knew I needed to employ Digital Humanities techniques. However, I had no coding experience and little time to learn within the parameters of the doctorate.

The solution was Heurist. With some initial coaching I was able to build a basic database structure within just a few hours. I then gradually populated the database using information pulled from the archival records, taking advantage of Heurist's mutability and capacity for incremental creation. A year later I had constructed a relational database of 150,000+ records across ten entity types, each with several fields. Some fields held long-form, plain-text data – typical of Humanities projects, but unsuited to standard database platforms. I have since been able to enrich the database with secondary research, taking it beyond a digital index and thus improving its usefulness for my own doctorate as well as, hopefully, for future users.

In this presentation I will explain my methodology, particularly the decisions I made along the way that have shaped the final project as well as some the obstacles that I encountered. I will also highlight some of the previously untold stories that have arisen

from the data regarding Angus & Robertson and the twentieth-century Australian print industry. Finally, I will discuss the broader potential of this Heurist database for future users, and how it might be adapted for other digital projects.

Rebekah Ward is a PhD candidate and sessional academic at Western Sydney University, working with the School of Humanities and Communication Arts. She was a Visiting Scholar at the State Library of NSW (2020-1) and has published in *Australian Literary Studies* and *Publishing History*.

Alex Wingate | Libros en Navarra | Books in Navarre

In my Heurist database, Libros en Navarra | Books in Navarre (LN|BN), I am representing inventories of private libraries and booksellers in 16th-and 17th-century Navarre to document what books were present in Navarre in that period and to address the shortcomings of traditionally published inventory data. Transcriptions of inventories of early modern private libraries, booksellers, and printers and the identifications of the books contained in the inventories are usually published in print or in online journals as PDFs by book historians. Whether in print or in PDF, this static presentation of inventory data makes it more difficult for book historians to browse, search, aggregate, and build upon each other's data. The use of databases, especially a database system like Heurist where templates increase the potential for interoperability, is an obvious choice for solving this problem and pushing book history forward.

The LN|BN currently comprises inventories from my undergraduate and master's theses and will be expanded upon as part of my PhD research and post-PhD. For the workshop, I will talk about how databases can help inventory-based book historical work; my functional requirements in designing the database; and how LN|BN's structure and entities map inventories, bibliographic metadata, and the various people associated with the inventories and the books. I will also talk about database issues that I am still working on and my goal of combining the Heurist database with a TEI digital edition of the inventories and other documents.

Alex Wingate is a PhD student in Information Science at Indiana University Bloomington. She holds a Masters of Library Science from Indiana University and an MA in the History of the Book from the University of London. Her research focuses on booksellers in early modern Navarre, Spain and the intersection between book history and information science. She is also the Bibliography Editor for both the Chymistry of Isaac Newton Project and SHARP News.

Keynote #2 Dominique Stutzmann | HORAE – Reconnaissance de l'écriture manuscrite, catégorisation automatique, éditions

Dominique Stutzmann est un historien du Moyen Âge, directeur de recherche à l'Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes (IRHT, UPR-841), spécialisé en histoire graphique et socio-culturelle de l'écriture et en analyse d'image par ordinateur appliquée aux sources écrites médiévales. Ses recherches actuelles portent, d'une part, sur le système graphique des écritures médiévales dans l'espace français du XIIe au XVe siècles et sur les modalités de leur évolution et, d'autre part, sur l'élaboration d'une

«paléographie artificielle», c'est-à-dire l'application de l'intelligence artificielle pour avancer nos connaissances en histoire de l'écriture.

Emmanuelle Dantan | La constitution d'un répertoire des chansons de trouvères des XIIe et XIIIe siècles avec Heurist

La constitution d'un répertoire des chansons de trouvères des XIIe et XIIIe siècles est le fruit de mes deux premières années de thèse. L'étude que j'envisageais nécessitait de passer par un recensement méticuleux des pièces de la lyrique d'oïl qui prenne en compte la représentation des discours féminins en fonction de différents paramètres (origine et époque de production du manuscrit, type de manuscrit, genre lyrique...). Afin de mener une étude en contexte de ces pièces, j'ai choisi une approche par manuscrit, ce qui m'a amenée à recenser plus de 3000 pièces réparties dans plus de 150 manuscrits des XIIIe et XIVe siècles.

L'outil Heurist a été une aide précieuse pour le stockage et l'enrichissement de la base de données ainsi que pour la navigation et la recherche d'informations. Un site Web est en cours d'élaboration de façon à faire profiter de ce travail à l'ensemble de la communauté scientifique, ainsi qu'au grand public.

Emmanuelle Dantan est doctorante en linguistique sous la direction du Professeur Thierry Revol à l'Université de Strasbourg au sein de l'unité de recherche LiLPa (UR 1339), son sujet de thèse porte sur les Voix féminines représentées dans les chansons de trouvères des xiiie et xiiie siècles, la réflexion étant menée via le prisme de l'analyse du discours et de l'énonciation. Elle a assuré une mission d'enseignement dans le cadre de son contrat doctoral par la dispense de cours de linguistique générale française, et est actuellement ATER en linguistique diachronique à l'Université de Strasbourg.

Simon Dagenais et Damien Tricoire | La base de données du projet ERC Pamphlets and Patrons

La base de données du projet ERC Pamphlets and Patrons (PAPA) développe une base de données est le fruit d'une collaboration avec Simon Burrows et son équipe. La base de données du projet PAPA se greffe sur la base de données FBTEE 2.0. La flexibilité de la plateforme Heurist permet d'adapter une base de données centrée sur le commerce de la librairie afin qu'elle puisse prendre en compte des éléments liée à la politique curiale et au contenu de pamphlets.

Cette présentation abordera les objectifs que le projet PAPA désire atteindre par l'entremise de sa base de données. L'adaptation de la base de données FBTEE 2.0 afin d'inclure des courtisans et d'articuler des liens entre eux et, à la fois les acteurs de vie littéraire française et les pamphlets sera ensuite abordée. Finalement, quelques exemples de résultats attendus et de possibilités offertes par la base de données seront présentés.

Simon Dagenais est chercheur postdoctoral à la chaire d'histoire moderne de l'Université de Trèves. Il travaille sur le projet *Pamphlets and Patrons: How courtier shaped the public sphere in Ancien Régime France* (PAPA) financé par l'European Research Council (ERC). Il est responsable de l'aspect Digital Humanities du projet

PAPA. Son projet personnel dans le cadre de PAPA réévalue le rôle du prince de Conti (1717-1776) dans la vie politique sous le règne de Louis XV.

Damien Tricoire est professeur titulaire de la chaire d'Histoire moderne de l'Université de Trèves en Allemagne. Ses recherches portent sur l'histoire des religions, l'histoire globale et coloniale, l'histoire des Lumières et des idées, l'histoire curiale et l'histoire de la sphère publique. Il dirige plusieurs projets de recherche, dont *Pamphlets and Patrons: How courtier shaped the public sphere in Ancien Régime France* (PAPA) financé par l'European Research Council (ERC). Dans le cadre du projet PAPA, il s'intéresse particulièrement à la faction du duc d'Orléans (1747-1793) et le patronage aristocratique des écrivains radicaux dans la France des Lumières.