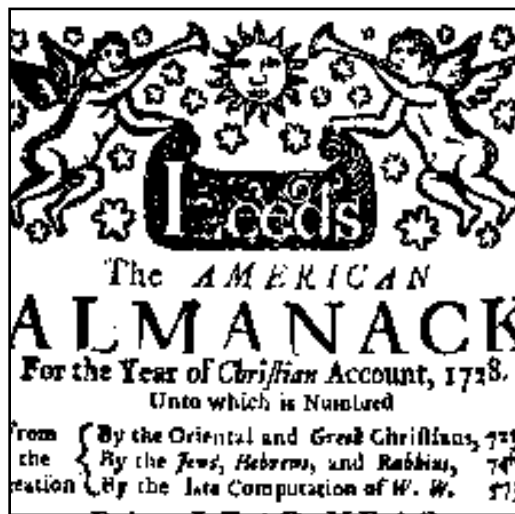


TEXT CREATION PARTNERSHIP

James Leeds, *The American Almanack*, 1728



The University of Michigan, NewsBank/Readex Co., and the American Antiquarian Society are pleased to announce that the Text Creation Partnership will be creating texts for the Evans Early American Imprint Collection, a highly regarded short title catalog containing 40,000 early American Imprints from 1639 to 1800. This collection is a definitive resource for studies of seventeenth and eighteenth century America and includes topics as diverse as slavery, politics, religion, and witchcraft. It also includes texts relating to important events during the American Revolution. Readex has already made the digital images available and has created searchable text for the overall collection through optical character recognition (OCR) software. The Text Creation Partnership standards based texts will greatly enhance the text searchability for both scholars and students. So far over 50 institutions subscribed to the Evans Digital Collection Product and only a few weeks after announcing the Evans-TCP over a dozen institutions committed to the partnership. The Text Creation Partnership envisions keyboarding 6,000 of these works according to the standards already developed in the EEBO Project. A demo site of the Evans-TCP will be released shortly including ten works from the Evans Digital collection. Production will then commence for the Evans-TCP.

Early American Imprints

TCP ANNOUNCES
EVANS TEXT INITIATIVE

The announcement of the Evans-TCP fulfills a vision that the Text Creation Partnership has had for a long time, creating subsets of fully encoded texts in a standards based format that is accessible to libraries around the globe, that shares costs across institutions, and that maintains the principle of public domain. Partner libraries will co-own those texts at the completion of the project (and allowing a reasonable sales window for ProQuest and Readex) with very robust rights of use, adaptation, and distribution. Partner institutions own the texts in perpetuity, and in the case of both EEBO and Evans, we have successfully negotiated for institutions to distribute the texts beyond their campus community if they should so choose. In other words, the keyboarded text will return to the public domain after a reasonable sales window for the vendor is met. Additionally, for universities that have more than one of these collections will be able to search across collections, so scholars will be able to do research spanning over three hundred years of history and two continents.

We look forward to making this important corpus even more accessible. For more information, please visit the Evans-TCP Website at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/evans> or contact Shawn Martin, project outreach librarian at shawnmar@umich.edu.

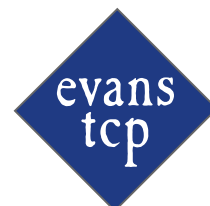
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Partnership update,
Publicity

ALA MEETING 4
TCP live in Toronto



<http://www.lib.umich.edu/evans>



<http://www.lib.umich.edu/eebo>

EEBO-TCP in Research:

Actors in Restoration Theatre

by Jennifer Renee Danby
SUNY
Graduate Center

Among the many uses of EEBO-TCP is the ability to find specific words within a text. I am a Ph.D. candidate at the City University of New York Graduate Center, writing my dissertation about acting and gender roles in the theater of the Restoration. My work focuses on five Restoration actors in the King's Company 1660-1678. Among these is leading actor Michael Mohun, who often played the virtuous soldier, or a villain. By looking at the shaping of "types" and masculinity and femininity in certain plays, I am discovering how theatrical and cultural norms influenced the idea of ideal men and women on stage (heroes and heroines), and deviations from the ideal (the villains).

EEBO-TCP has been a tremendous help in doing this type of research because it has opened up the number of sources I have been able to use. Not only have I drawn on the original plays (the bulk of my primary research materials), but I have also looked at medical texts, treatises on vocal training, conduct books, legal documents, illustrations, lampoons about actors, legal documents, and other relevant cultural material, several of which are available only in manuscript form and many of which are very difficult to find elsewhere. With the full text search capability, I have been able to search on the names of specific actors, names in specific passages, and cross-connections between materials.

For example, entering the name of one of the actors, "Mohun," yielded a list of extant cast lists in plays within the database, with Mohun's name highlighted (in red). This match between actor and play title maximized

efficiency. Previously a researcher would have had to manually search through all existing cast lists and locate the few places where "Mohun" may have existed; such a search may have taken days to complete in archives scattered throughout the world. With EEBO-TCP, I was able to find the same information in seconds from the comfort of my own university, and then it freed me up to focus on other aspects of my research.

In addition to finding works that I was expecting to find, and finding them much more quickly than previously possible, I also found references to these actors and their roles that I would never have found otherwise. For example, by entering Mohun's name I discovered a reference to him and another actor I was researching in a preface affixed to a play published in 1698, the purpose of which was to make a point about how even good actors cannot "prop" up a poor play text. There are only a small number of



Aphra Behn, Restoration Playwright.

contemporary and near-contemporary extant sources which reference Mohun's abilities as an actor, and this is important cultural evidence. By entering the name of one of the characters Mohun played on stage, Abdelmelech, I discovered a reference in Gerald Langbaine's *An Account of the English Dramatic Poets*. This was a short passage dealing with character and a cultural reading of manly behavior, thus directly relevant to my research on actors, acting, masculinity and femininity. Finally, by searching on "Farley," I found a rare epistle entitled "The first Letter from B.[uckhurst] to Mr. E. [therege]," the first line of which begins "Dreaming Last Night on Mrs. Farley," attributed to Rochester, first published in 1680.

So, in addition to finding things I was expecting, I found materials that I probably never would have

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found otherwise. This opens up new opportunities and new avenues of scholarship that never would have been possible before. By finding references to actors and their roles not only in the plays themselves but also in other relevant cultural works, my research has been enriched by the use of the Early English Books Online-Text Creation Partnership's online database. This unparalleled ability to interact with the primary sources on a new level allows scholars and their students to understand and interpret the early modern period in ways that previously would have taken a lifetime of work, and it opens up sources that may never have been considered. Overall, one can see how the understanding of Restoration theatre will be greatly enhanced by the use of the EEBO-TCP database, and it is exciting to think about the additional discoveries that will come as more is added to the database and more scholars use it for their research.

Partnership Update

Despite these difficult budgetary times University of Colorado, The Claremont Colleges, Middle Tennessee State University, Texas Christian University, and McGill University have been able to commit to the EEBO-TCP in the past 3 months. Also, the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) in the UK is finalizing a nationwide deal providing EEBO-TCP for the entire UK. Additionally, Boston College, Bucknell University, Columbia University, Indiana University, McGill University, the University of Michigan, Pennsylvania State University, Southern Illinois University, the University of Arizona, the University of Cincinnati, the University of HongKong, the University of Iowa, the University of New Mexico, the University of Pittsburgh, Vassar College, and Yale University have been able to commit to the Evans-TCP. Because of their commitments, the TCP will be able to convert hundreds of additional texts from both the EEBO and Evans Digital Collections.

Over 3200 Text Editions Now Online

At present, over 3,200 EEBO-TCP texts are online; approximately 250 new titles being added each month. These new titles include works by authors such as Sir Isaac Newton, Marcus Tullius Cicero, René Descartes, Richard Lovelace, and Thomas Hobbes. The most recently added updates of the new texts are available in the "News and Announcements" section of the EEBO-TCP project website or at the "New Text Archive" also on the EEBO-TCP project site at http://www.lib.umich.edu/eebo/New_Text_Archive.html. Access is available without charge to Partner institutions through the University of Michigan, and Oxford. ProQuest is also working to provide access to the TCP texts from their site in July. The University of Michigan site supports simple, boolean, and proximity searching, browsing, and a word index that shows variant spellings. Participating institutions can access the database at <http://ets.umdl.umich.edu/e/eebo>. Trial access can be arranged by contacting Shawn Martin, shawmar@umich.edu.

With current commitments, the project will complete between 8,000 and 10,000 texts, costing an ARL library between \$5 and \$6 per title. We are working hard to meet our original goal of 25,000 titles, the cost per title would be \$2 for ARLs, and less still for smaller Partner libraries.

EEBO and EEBO-TCP Articles Appear in Charleston Advisor

EEBO was recently reviewed in the April 2003 issue of the Charleston Advisor. The review says that the EEBO product is "an online equivalent to a 96,000 volume rare book library" and "scholars will relish the opportunity to investigate cultural practices from original documentation." Additionally, an article about the EEBO-TCP appeared in the same issue. In it Mark Sandler explains the philosophy of the Text Creation Partnership, the unique cooperation between commercial vendors and the partner libraries, and the benefits of the TCP. Copies of these articles are available on the EEBO-TCP website at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/eebo/Review.html>.

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General News

Partnership Update

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Publicity

TEXT CREATION PARTNERSHIP

TCP Update Meeting

At ALA in Toronto

Sunday June 22nd at

10:30 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.

in the Wellington Room of the Crowne Plaza Toronto Centre Hotel.

For more information about the Text Creation Partnership, please contact Shawn Martin,
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TCP

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