



## Members of the EEBO-TCP Governing Board

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## The User Guide for this Newsletter

Why a newsletter about the EEBO-TCP project? Does anyone want to guess at the ratio of “read” to “trash” for something like this? You’re probably asking what I always ask: why can’t folks just take our money and do the work without feeling the need to tell us about it? And will some library actually think they should catalog this and complain that we have no ISSN? In other words, some of you probably thought you bought a practical car only to find that the dealer thinks you joined “the club”. Well, we’ve said all along that there’s something different about the EEBO Text Creation Partnership. While the EEBO image product from Bell & Howell Information and Learning is a more or less traditional one-time library purchase, the structure of EEBO-TCP is anything but a one-time commitment for a “product”. We’ve said all along that a commitment to the Text Partnership is an investment in building a corpus, the ultimate size of which will be governed by the number of investing libraries and the shape of which is governed by the needs of those libraries. Hence, ongoing communication with partner libraries is an important element of the TCP initiative.

In addition to information sharing about building the corpus, EEBO-TCP has always anticipated an ongoing collective commitment to encourage the use of the corpus for both research and instruction. Accordingly, our constituency goes beyond libraries to the broader campus community. Hence, we see this newsletter as a vehicle for EEBO users outside the usual library communication channels to share information and ideas. Finally, we want to use the newsletter as a vehicle to communicate our vision and excitement about EEBO-TCP to non-subscribers (or “not-yet-subscribers”) and potential user communities at non-subscribing institutions in the U.S. and abroad. There is a constant “buzz” (not too loud but you can hear it in the background if you perk your ears) about EEBO and EEBO-TCP at conferences and discipline-based LISTS, so we see the newsletter as a way to share this interest with institutions that may be weighing their options for building digital library collections.

## EEBO-TCP Governing Board Provides Project Advice and Oversight

The EEBO Text Creation Partnership is overseen by a Governing Board chaired by University of Michigan Library Director William Gosling. The Governing Board assumes primary responsibility for stewarding the Text Creation Partnership and provides general direction and oversight for policies and procedures affecting the quality and cost of the project.

Gosling says that he feels very good about the people selected to serve on the EEBO-TCP Board. “I come away from our meetings feeling energized. The Board members take their assignments seriously and have many excellent ideas to contribute. They understand what it means to run a big organization or project so can balance ideal concepts with flexible and practical suggestions.”

The Board meets twice a year and has passed on such matters as the selection of texts to be included in the corpus, the requirements for text capture and tagging of the converted texts, and promotional efforts undertaken in support of the project. Current issues under Board consideration include contractual agreements among the principle parties, user licensing agreements, and budget structure and financial reporting. The board also expects to tackle questions related to intellectual property rights at its next meeting.



*Bill Gosling, chair of the  
Governing Board.*

# Oxford University Brings UK Perspective to EEBO-TCP



*“Whereas the value of EEBO for researchers outside of the UK is obvious,” Andrew King of Oxford comments, “it is also a powerful tool for teaching undergraduates and graduates within Britain - and, of course, elsewhere.”*

Oxford University has been an integral part of EEBO-TCP since its inception, and the project has become a focal point both in the Bodleian and in campus classrooms. On the library side, the Bodleian is gearing up to go online as a second production site for EEBO-TCP texts within the next few months, doubling the project’s capacity for quality review. In the classroom, meanwhile, Lecturer Andrew King has been calling on EEBO’s images to help students understand how integrated text and illustration are in early modern printing.

The electronic text shop at the Bodleian has been busily preparing for its EEBO-TCP work, sending Michael Popham and David Price to visit the University of Michigan’s Digital Library Production Service during the week of May 14. Although the Michigan and Oxford shops operate at a distance of over 3,000 miles and within different national and academic cultures, their goal is to establish cooperative solutions that result in the same treatment of materials at roughly the same costs.

EEBO in its present form is currently finding great support at Oxford, where its users include Stuart Lee, head of the Centre for Humanities Computing, as well as a number of students. Andrew King, who specializes in early modern literature, has used the corpus to help his students understand how Renaissance texts appeared to their first readers. “The appearance of a work in its original printed form can have important implications for literary interpretation, and that sort of evidence is often obscured or distorted in a modern edition,” King explains. “Students feel intellectually liberated when they grapple with the evidence of Early Modern books themselves; they can find in the original appearance of a work features that bear on their understanding of the work’s rhetorical character, its relation to genre, and its historical contextualization.”

## EEBO-TCP Searchable Texts Debut at ACRL; Second Presentation Scheduled for June at ALA

The EEBO-TCP offered a first glimpse at its newly created searchable texts at the ACRL conference in Denver this past March. University of Michigan Collection Development Officer Mark Sandler outlined the status of the production efforts, while Hillary Nunn, EEBO-TCP Project Development Liaison, described the sorts of searching that the project’s prototype interface makes possible.

A similar presentation will be part of the EEBO-TCP meeting at ALA this June in San Francisco.

Hillary’s presentation also illustrated some of the challenges that early modern fonts and printing habits present both for keyboarders and for those formulating the projects encoding standards. She then demonstrated the prototype search interface, developed by the University of Michigan Digital Library Production Service, showing how users can now find keywords and concepts in eight sample texts, which in turn are linked to Bell & Howell’s EEBO images. The demonstration database is available at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/eebo/Demosite.html>



For those who would like to try out EEBO-TCP’s demonstration database, it is available online at

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/eebo/Demosite.html>

# Rutgers Librarian and Professor Create an EEBO Based Course

From the beginning, EEBO has made the job of bringing images from early books into the classroom easier for faculty; at Rutgers University this past fall, however, it was the students who were finding and presenting early modern books to their peers. The eight undergraduates in Professor Rudolph Bell's honors Seminar, English Advice Manuals Online at Rutgers (E-AMOR), made EEBO their primary source, using the corpus to investigate works that offered early modern readers instruction on subjects ranging from financial matters to foreign languages.

Professor Bell designed the course in cooperation with Ron Jantz of the Alexander Library, who helped the class create an online bibliography of their research.



*Librarian Ron Jantz (left) and Prof. Bell (far right) with the E-AMOR class*

## Getting the Word Out

### Northwestern U. Promotes EEBO Essay Contest

At Northwestern University, the library has given EEBO a prominent place on its website, enticing students not just to check out the corpus but to enter the EEBO Undergraduate Essay Contest as well. As Western Language and Literature Bibliographer Jeff Garrett says, the essay competition “serves our needs regardless of how many essays are actually submitted. One student asking another ‘Are you thinking of entering?’ already makes a sizeable contribution to community awareness.” The collections web page, at <http://www.library.northwestern.edu/collections/english/index.html#essaycontest>, entices students with the contest's \$1000 grand prize.

To find out more about the EEBO Undergraduate Essay Contest, please consult the EEBO-TCP's EEBO in Education section at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/eebo/EEBOEducation.html>

If you have a story you think ought to be included here, please contact Hillary Nunn at [hunn@umich.edu](mailto:hunn@umich.edu).

In total, the class located and examined almost 200 EEBO works, which are currently listed in a searchable database linked to the E-AMOR web page at <http://www.scc.rutgers.edu/e-amor/>.



*Leora Trub presents her examination of advice given on the subject of child rearing at the E-AMOR conference.*

EEBO, Prof. Bell stated, made it possible to expose undergraduates to rare books from libraries throughout the UK and North America that a student could otherwise “not possible visit during a [normal] semester”. And while not one of his students is majoring in the humanities, all eight engaged in substantial original research, which the students themselves presented to the Rutgers community at the E-AMOR conference on December 7.

## New EEBO Interface Launched

Bell and Howell has asked us to announce that the new EEBO interface has launched.

The new interface includes the following features:

- \* Users can now view images instantly, eliminating the need for plug-ins on workstations.
- \* Instant PDF downloads for off-line viewing and printing.
- \* Pre-download file sized prominently displayed so users know in advance how large the files will be.
- \* Immediate access to all images - no delays for image conversion.
- \* Improved Help Menu with graphics.
- \* A “What's New?” section to keep users informed.

In addition to the interface changes:

- \* Now all EEBO images are stored on hard disk.
- \* Usage Summaries are available online and are created using ICOLC guidelines.

If you would like more information about any of these improvements, please contact Laura Janover at [laura.janover@bellhowell.infolearning.com](mailto:laura.janover@bellhowell.infolearning.com).

**Please join us at the**  
**EEBO-TCP Update Meeting**  
**and**  
**Celebration of First Searchable Texts**

at ALA in San Francisco  
June 18  
9:30 am  
-Location to be announced-

Please RSVP by contacting Hillary Nunn at [hunn@umich.edu](mailto:hunn@umich.edu)



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