

## TEN YEARS LATER: THE FUTURE IS PAST



2009 marks HEB's tenth anniversary. With it comes news as startling as it is expected: humanities publishing is at the tipping point. The print monograph and journal, increasingly supported by grants and other funding sources as direct revenues decline, are succumbing to the pressures of the economic crisis. Many of the methods and players in the creation, dissemination and peer review of humanities scholarship that have maintained the current system for the past generation are under tremendous strain. A very narrow window of opportunity remains open for the humanities to marshal its resources and make decisions that will affect scholarly communication for the next generation.

For the past decade we humanists have upheld a replicate publishing system: a declining print model maintained by the university presses and scholarly societies, and a parallel, "disruptive technology" of digital models. They now co-exist, often as mirror images of each other, at great cost to libraries, publishers, learned societies, scholars and readers. But the infrastructure of scholarly communication can no longer support both.

Recent announcements from ACLS's partners among the university presses, the learned societies, libraries and their consortia all point to two stark challenges before us. The first is the full embrace of the digital, and that means the rapid abandonment of print-first. The second is for an emergent leadership to bring together the forces in humanities scholarship to create a quickly available alternative — cyber-ready if not shovel-ready — to the current system of print-first production and distribution.

HEB is one survivor of many experiments over the past decade to point the way toward such a rapid changeover. Our partners among the presses, libraries and societies have met the challenge and opportunities offered by these experiments with various degrees of enthusiasm, skepticism, surprise or disappointment. But the clear fact is that we have accumulated a decade of sound and solid experience on which to move forward.

ACLS has proposed at various times a broad-based and large-scale coalition of university presses, libraries and scholars that could replace print-first production and distribution models and offer a common space to work out a new model for the acquisition, production, distribution, review and sustainability of scholarly materials. Our timeframe is now short: we believe 3 to 5 years to be not only optimal for launch and implementation but perhaps the only window remaining open to accomplish this critical task if the scholarly community is to maintain curation of its own resources.

Technology is not the issue; the fineries of Web 1, 2 or 3, POD, XML or HTML, open or paid access not the solution. The core issue remains leadership and the willingness to forge alliances not just on the technical level but on the highest administrative levels at universities, learned societies and foundations. We offer an invitation to reboot the process.

In the face of Google, go-it-alone, single-publisher solutions (however defined) have not — and will not — work. While a multipolar system of independent entities will maintain innovation and incubate diversity of talent and approach, it's time to bring together these disparate resources — the JSTORs, MUSEs, HEBs, HathiTrust — into a cross-searchable, unified system of journals, monographs, primary-source collections, preliminary research findings, pre- and post-publication peer review.

Issues of governance, finance, distribution and archiving are daunting. They can, must and will be worked out. There is no longer any alternative.

## HEB TOP TEN LIST

We've just completed our 13<sup>th</sup> round of statistics reporting and royalty payments. This list of top-ten books was compiled from HEB's over 2,200 titles currently online and is based on reported page hits per title. McClintock, Hodgson, Hirschman and Hobsbawm remain on the list.

1. McClintock, *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest*.
2. Weber, *Peasants into Frenchmen: The Modernization of Rural France, 1870-1914*.
3. Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*.
4. Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam*, Vol. 1.
5. Cortes, *Hernan Cortes Letters from Mexico*, Anthony Pagden, ed.
6. Maines, *The Technology of Orgasm: Hysteria, the Vibrator and Women's Sexual Satisfaction*.
7. Hirschman, *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty: Responses to Decline in Firms, Organizations, and States*.
8. Scott, *Gender and the Politics of History*.
9. Ehret, *The Civilizations of Africa: A History to 1800*.
10. Hobsbawm, *Nations and Nationalism since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality*.

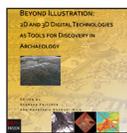
## NEW TITLES IN XML



### THE SLENDER THREAD:

IRISH WOMEN ON THE SOUTHERN AVALON, 1750-1860  
WILLEEN KEOUGH  
Columbia University Press, 2006. HEB, 2009.

Using gender as a category of analysis, refracted through the lenses of ethnicity and class, this book concentrates on the female dynamics of immigration and community formation, attempting to discern the meanings that women ascribed to their experiences and the understandings of Irish Newfoundland womanhood that were constructed within the New World. This book offers primary sources, maps, b&w and color images and sound recordings documenting the immigrant experience. **A Gutenberg-e title.**



### BEYOND ILLUSTRATION:

2D AND 3D DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AS TOOLS FOR DISCOVERY IN ARCHAEOLOGY  
BERNARD FRISCHER & A. DAKOURI-HILD, EDs.  
Archaeopress, 2008. HEB, 2009.

2D and 3D modeling of cultural heritage is no longer used simply to illustrate the location and appearance of archaeological sites, but also as a tool to discover and recover data from archaeological remains. When applied to the legacy excavation data of a cultural heritage site, or to record the progress of a new excavation, 3D modeling can mitigate the irreversible and destructive nature of traditional archaeological excavation. The archaeologist can now virtually preserve the site through 3D data capture. Once the 3D field data has been modeled, it is possible to retrace decisions and test the validity of conclusions with more precision and confidence. Fourteen contributions by leading scholars, four QuickTime videos, external resources, color and b&w images. **An IATH title.**

## SOME USEFUL NUMBERS

HEB's collection keeps growing across the humanities: at a rate of about 29% in 2009 and by another 22% in 2010. By adding 500 titles over each of the next ten years, HEB will increase by an average annual rate of 13%.

Use on the site more than doubles every two years. Last year there were approximately 3.25 million page views, with just under 300,000 searches across the site. The average visitor reads just over 10 pages at a time.

