



Undergraduate Research Symposium May 17, 2013 Mary Gates Hall

Online Proceedings

SESSION 1F

FROM PAPYRUS TO THE INTERNET: TEXTS IN TIME

Session Moderator: James Clauss, Classics

238 MGH

1:15 PM to 2:45 PM

* Note: Titles in order of presentation.

Newbook Digital Texts in the Humanities: The Emma B. Andrews Diaries

Megan Rowland, Sophomore, Near Eastern Studies

(Languages & Civilization)

Rachel Schlotfeldt, Sophomore, English

Mentor: Sarah Ketchley

Mentor: Walter Andrews, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

Emma B. Andrews' diaries give insight into the lives of archeologists working in Egypt's Valley of the Kings at the turn of the last century. Due to her association with the archeologist Theodore Davis, Andrews had a unique opportunity to see the excavations in the Valley of the Kings firsthand during her travels between 1889 and 1913. Though these diaries provide valuable cultural, social and archeological perspectives on this period of Egyptian history, they have gone largely unnoticed by the academic community, and this project intends to make these works available as invaluable for academia. In order to bridge a gap in the publishing world, the NEH-funded Newbook Digital Texts project provides a unique environment for the multi-media publication of texts, transcriptions, translations, and annotation of works that are not compatible with traditional publishing or available large-project digital platforms. Newbook Digital Texts' collaborative nature enables individual projects to inexpensively adapt to the project, providing opportunities for individuals to publish academic works with less expense and hassle. It also enables people to access important texts and resources more easily. As undergraduate researchers, we have the opportunity to work with these primary texts, learning useful digital humanities skills. At the beginning of the process, we learned how to create a structured transcription, allowing us to auto-tag the text. During this process, we have been able to complete a structural analysis of the text. We all worked with XML formatting, creating name lists, and doing content tagging within the

text. Additionally, we completed independent research for inclusion in the project's Wikipedia. Upon reading through the diaries and editing them, our project recognized important links to other excavators and research done in the Valley of the Kings, and we believe the diaries will fill gaps within academia in this field.