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Faculty Summit

10
YEAR ANNIVERSARY

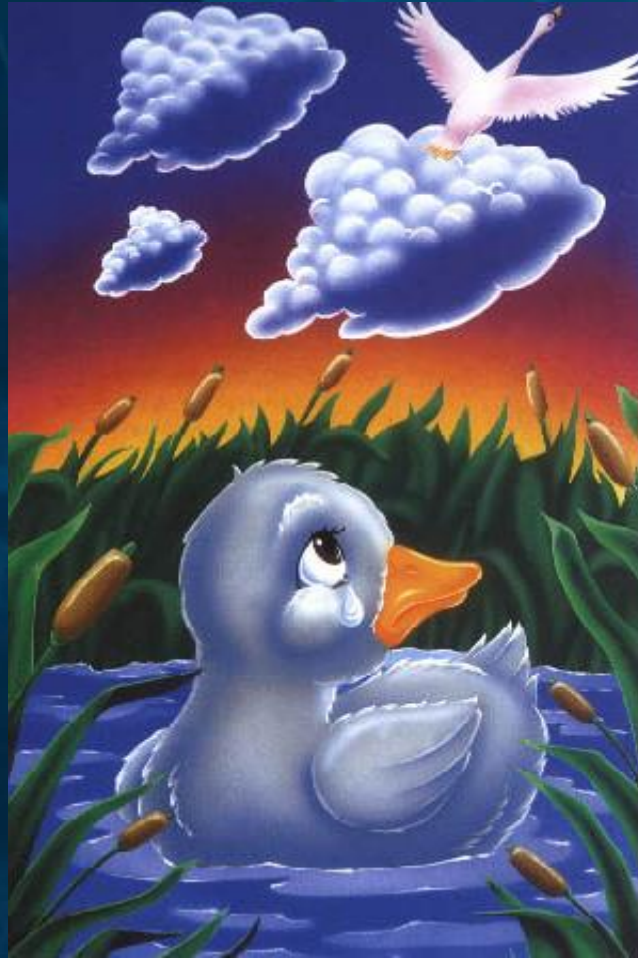
Digital Humanities: an Historical Perspective

Jane Ohlmeyer
Trinity College Dublin

My background

- Professor of Modern History
- 1641 Depositions Project and TCD-digital initiatives
- Digital Humanities Observatory
- Chair of Irish Manuscripts Committee on Digitization
- Chair of IRCHSS/DARIAH Committee
- Irish representative on ESFRI, DARIAH, MSEG for EDL - Europeana

The Ugly Duckling



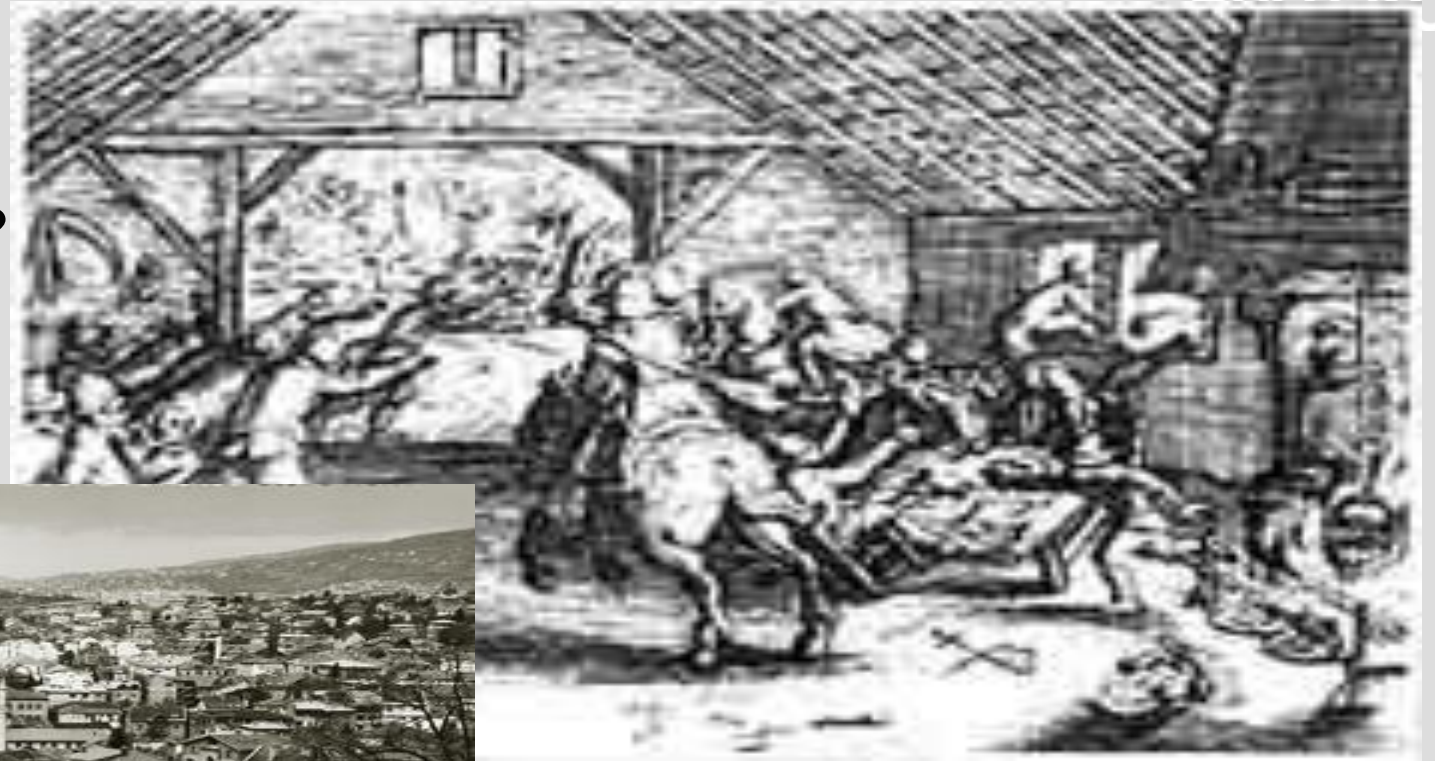
The History ...

- Digital Humanities is a field of research concerned with the intersection of computing, information management and the disciplines of the humanities
- Roberto A. Busa
- Rossetti archive (<http://www.rossettiarchive.org/>)
- Valley of the Shadow project (<http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/>)
- New questions and new knowledge

*How can we still think
when there is so much information?*



Do we *remember* the past?



or do we risk repeating it?



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The Challenges in Current Research Practices

- Linearity
- Isolated activity
- Layered approach
- Manual practices
- Disconnected materials
- The Trinity-Microsoft Virtual Research Environment



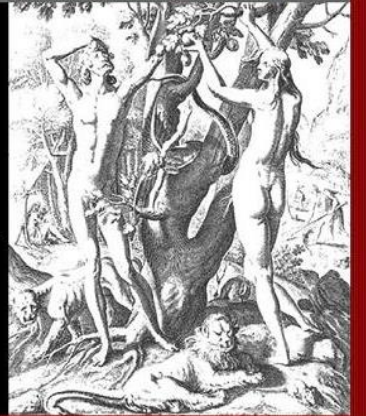
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Early English Books
Online
Text Creation Partnership

- Basic Search
- Boolean Search
- Proximity Search
- Bibliographic Search
- Word Index
- Browse



- About EEBO-TCP
- Demo EEBO-TCP
- comments to: UMDL Help

Virtual Dublin Project © ISG 2004



THE Long
Room
HUB

Why the Humanities?

- Dirty, noisy data
- Technology deficient researchers with strong analytical skills
- Digital Content Analysis – text mining, visualization, search
- Digital Content Management – personalisation, metadata, interoperability
- (Web) Services Support – storage, curation and preservation
- (Web) Social Networking – crowd sourcing, community annotation, social network analysis, knowledge extraction

A Case Study: the 1641 Depositions

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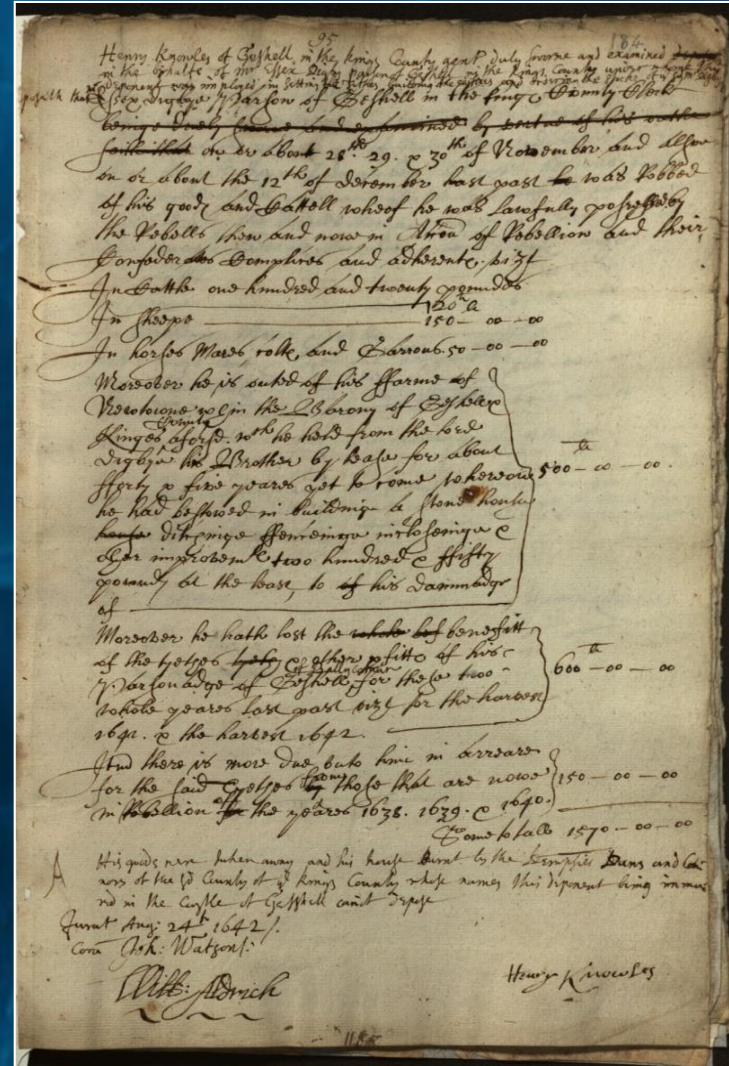
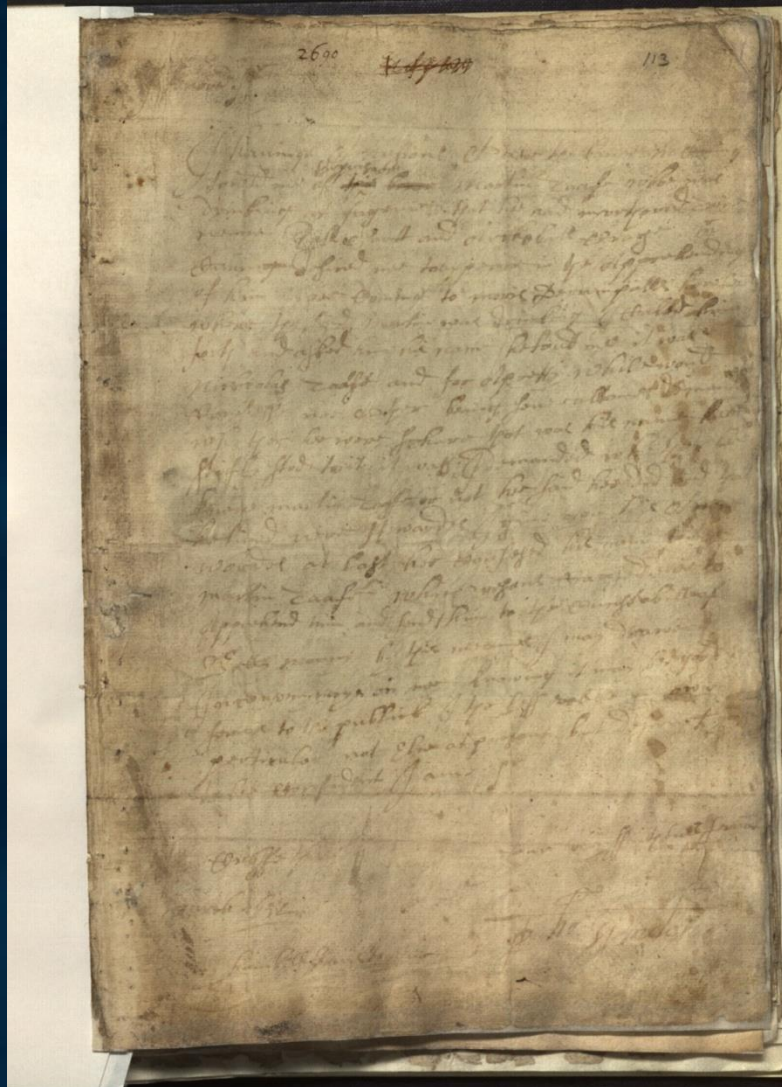
Joseph Joice of Kinsale in the County of Kerry gave
 evidence and deposes that off the 10th or 11th
 began in the County of Kerry about the 10th of November
 that this report was first made in the Castle of Kinsale
 in the County of Kerry that the soldiers who were
 to the King's service and that howbeit the King's
 maintained that Castle for ten months together though they were
 often starved and strongly besieged by the Rebels. And in that
 last night and day some of the Castle being many were
 distressed and driven to such extreame want and misery that they
 were enforced and very glad to eat the flesh of horses and
 dogs. But having not enough of that in a very long time about
 twelve or more men and women were glad to eat
 the flesh of the misery and want was such that
 that one who was a Scotchman pinched with extreame hunger
 in the night tyme opened the grave of a man that was buried
 in the liberties of the Castle and fed upon the dead
 and buried mans flesh Some of the souldjers of
 the Castle partly espyring him tooke ayme &
 thinking him an enemy shott him through soe
 that he dyed, And that Scotchmans wife
 afterwards hanged to death her owne child and
 ate her flesh for want of meate:

1156

TCD MS 814, County Offaly (King's County),
 Deposition of Joseph Joice, who gave details of
 cannibalism that occurred in that county.

**‘that one whoe was a Scochman pinched with
 extreame hunger privately in the night tyme
 opened the grave of a man that was buried within
 the liberties of the Castle and fed vpon the dead
 and buried mans flesh Some of the souldjers of
 the Castle partly espyring him tooke ayme &
 thincking him an enemy shott him through soe
 that he dyed, And that Scochmans wife
 afterwards hanged to death her owne child and
 ate her flesh for want of meate:’**

Dirty, Noisy Data



The victim provides a detailed list of his losses including cattle, horses, sheep, tithes and his farm to the value of £1570.

TCD MS 839, fols 113r-114v
Deposition of Thomas Windsor, Londonderry

TCD MS 814, King's County (Offaly),
Deposition of Henry Knowles, 24 August 1642

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