

Forum for Classics, Libraries, and Scholarly Communication (FCLSC) Annual Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2017, 9:30am to 11:30am

Toronto, Canada

In attendance: Greta Boers (Duke), Larissa Bonfante (NYU), Gregory Crane (Tufts/Leipzig), Charles Jones (Pennsylvania State), Lanah Koelle (Center for Hellenic Studies), Zoie Lafis (CHS), Rhea Lesage (Harvard), Camilla MacKay (Bryn Mawr), Colin McCaffrey (Yale), Kenny Morrell (Rhodes College/CHS), Lenny Muellner (Brandeis University/CHS), Professor Dr. Hans Peter Obermayer (Munich), Jeremy Ott (UC-Berkeley), Lucie Stylianopoulos (UVA), Sheila Winchester (UT-Austin), and Temple Wright (CHS).

Agenda

1. Introduction (Colin McCaffrey, Chair; Lanah Koelle, Secretary)

2. Confirmation of 2016 Minutes

- Lanah will re-circulate. The minutes are on the [website](#).

3. Round-the-room updates

- Colin recognizes the contributions of David Sullivan, classics librarian at Notre Dame and a founding member of FCLSC, who passed away during the fall.

4. Election of New Officers (2 year terms)

- Executive Committee Nominations:
Chair: Rhea Lesage, Librarian for Hellenic Studies and Coordinator for the Classics, Harvard College Library
Secretary: David Ratzan, Head Librarian, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU.
- The forum members accept the nominees unanimously.

5. Refugee Scholars Papers Updates (Larissa Bonfante)

- Update from David Schenker (Classical Studies) and Sarah Buchanan (Library and Information Science) at University of Missouri:
Faculty at the University of Missouri are pleased to report funding for the project to create an online directory to the locations of archival papers of American classicists and classical archaeologists. We will look toward expanding our scope internationally and even more interdisciplinarily in a year's time! This project is being led by Dr. Sarah Buchanan (the iSchool, LIS Program), who will work with Classics students and Dr. David Schenker (Classical Studies), to make available both the content previously assembled by Rebecka Lindau and hosted at Princeton University, AND new additions of Classical Studies scholars, in an online platform (possibly GitHub). This database resource will help make connections between one classicist's career and another's, enabling new scholars to pursue original research and build on the contributions that have come before. We are happy to welcome your

ideas, contributions, and support - please be in touch with me (David) or Sarah Buchanan by email.

- Goal is to debut the resource in January 2018.
- Last year at the SCS, there was a panel about foreign scholars and German historians in particular.
- Prof. Obermeyer on his experience writing 10 profiles of German refugee classical scholar: He used early exile studies volumes from the 1980s initially. It is challenging to reconstruct correspondence; the files of committees are also informative. He looks forward to more sources being online—many finding aids are online now.
- Discussion:
 - Suggestion to get a blog post on the FCLSC website about this project.
 - Possible contact for collaboration: [Social Networks and Archival Context](#) project at UVA.

6. Discussion of Acquisition of Classical Scholarship published in Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean (Rhea Lesage)

- Harvard collects extensively in Modern Greek; see [Rhea's post on the FCLSC blog](#) for details.
- Casalini also makes a great effort. They are trying to expand, but the fulfillment rate isn't good. They are now offering approval plans.
- Andromeda and Fourlas are good for older publications. Payment can be a challenge, so a PayPal account is handy.
- Konstantinos (Kostas) Papadopoulos from Oionos Book Services is able to handle more volume. Kostas is also connected to the publisher, Potamos.
- Rhea can give Kostas's contact information to anyone interested.
- Discussion of foreign language acquisitions and statistics:
 - More libraries are restructuring acquisitions and cutting budgets for foreign titles. There's a concern that more library collections will become homogenous; it's important to have access to these materials in the US.
 - Tip: include browse statistics with circulation statistics
 - Undergraduates may not be consulting foreign language materials. What about graduate students?
 - Yale conducted study on declining use of German materials. Perhaps we can ask Sarah Tudesco, Assessment Librarian at Yale, to share the usage data.
 - The German government might be able to offer funding to encourage acquisition of German materials.

7. "Tools of the Trade" Instruction Initiative Update (Colin McCaffrey)

- Goal is to outline research and digital humanities skills: GIS, bibliographic searching, using digital texts. Ancient Makerspaces workshop is in some ways a spin off.
- One new direction to move into is working with the [Library of Antiquity blog](#) (Jackie Neel, Temple University). On the FCLSC site, we could offer different ways of organizing that content and other curated content.
- Discussion regarding how to build students' knowledge of digital humanities

research methods:

- UVA library research intensives in arts and humanities. A pre-modern research course (1 credit) is in development.
- Has anyone developed a graduated curriculum or credentials to prepare students to enter the new digital humanities programs?
- Sunoikisis Digital Classics lectures are recorded online with slides. The course topics give a rough outline. Some faculty have used the materials for a flipped classroom approach.
- Lenny and Kenny had to put together a curriculum for a Digital Humanities MA. They can share a Google Doc.
- There is general interest in a summer workshop: Digital Humanities Bootcamp for Pre-Modern Librarians.
- Colin will share the content from the Tools of the Trade Initiative.
- Updates relating to digital texts: The Digital Latin Library is close to releasing their guidelines for digital editions. They are also planning to host a two-day training camp this summer (details coming soon).

8. Open Greek and Latin/First Thousand Years of Greek Project Update (Greg Crane, Rhea Lesage, Lucie Stylianopoulos)

- General update:
 - 4-5 million words of new Greek added. Now have over 30 million words – online or paid for and in the pipeline. The First Thousand Years of Greek Project received a boost with support from Harvard’s Arcadia Fund.
 - Now the team is looking at different editions and comparing them, as well as looking at tools for annotating people and places. The goal is to build only the things that no one else has and to internationalize the project’s efforts.
 - There are endless projects for students to learn Digital Humanities skills.
- Arcadia Fund project:
 - Rhea worked with Lenny and the CHS to develop a project proposal for a \$50,000 grant from the Arcadia Fund, plus matching funds from CHS.
 - Bruce provided the OCR pipeline, which used editing results to retrain the OCR. He also set up the “OCR Challenge” to get students involved.
 - After the OCR correction at Mt Allison University, the texts traveled to Digital Divide Data (DDD) in Cambodia to be encoded as TEI-compliant XML.
 - The texts then went to Leipzig to become CTS (Canonical Text Services) compliant. Testing the citations is a great way for students to get into TEI and work with interesting texts.
- Teaching students to edit XML texts:
 - At UVA, five students received Student Digital Research Fellowships (\$1800 for undergraduates; \$2100 for graduate students). Their departments are: religious studies (2), classics, art, and medieval studies.
 - Beginning in August, the students received training in how to work with XML, TEI, and EpiDoc; the Oxygen editor; and GitHub (that’s where the students communicate with Leipzig).
 - In the spring, the students will work on their own texts: correcting errors

- and verifying texts.
- Four staff members worked on the project. The model, not unlike a small seminar, could be replicated elsewhere. There is also the Holy Cross Manuscripts Club model, where students get together for 3 hours a week to work on projects.
- One of the digital research fellows is deaf. Her experience pushed the team to think about how to be more inclusive in what we do with audio and visual assistance technologies.
- Training librarians:
 - General interest in a mini-seminar on XML for librarians.
 - Ideally, it would take a week to understand texts and tools. The forum would be a good pilot before expanding such a program for other librarians and faculty in pre-modern studies.
- What's happening at CHS?
 - CHS has committed funds for scanning and dedicated summer interns.
 - In 2016, three summer interns from Harvard, Yale, and UMass worked 25 hours per week on the OCR Challenge; two projects led by Monica Berti, [*Digital Fragmenta Historicorum Graecorum*](#) and [*Digital Athenaeus*](#); and verifying and correcting CTS and EpiDoc compliance on texts from DDD. In August, the interns also helped train Lucie's five students from UVA.
 - Now that building the corpus is well-underway, the next phase is developing a user interface with a search engine and reading environment. Lenny will share a Google Doc with the specifications. In short, the team is planning for lemmatizing and the ability to search for topics. The audience should range from non-Greek/Latin readers to experienced researchers. The team is developing use cases – please share your own possible scenarios!
 - Leipzig and CHS have the funds and hope to start on this soon.
- What's next?
 - Push international collaborations. Students at Greek institutions could be participating.
 - Consider how to bring in new institutions and departments, e.g. Cynthia Damon at UPenn, to get more students involved in the process.
 - Forum members encourage Lucie to write up a narrative about this one-year experiment.
 - There is general interest in training for librarians: either a summer workshop or a session at the next SCS meeting, which will be in Boston.