

Historians, computer scientists and the digital revolution

Leigh T. Denault
Robert N. M. Watson
University of Cambridge
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CENTRE FOR HISTORY AND ECONOMICS

King's College, University of Cambridge

Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University

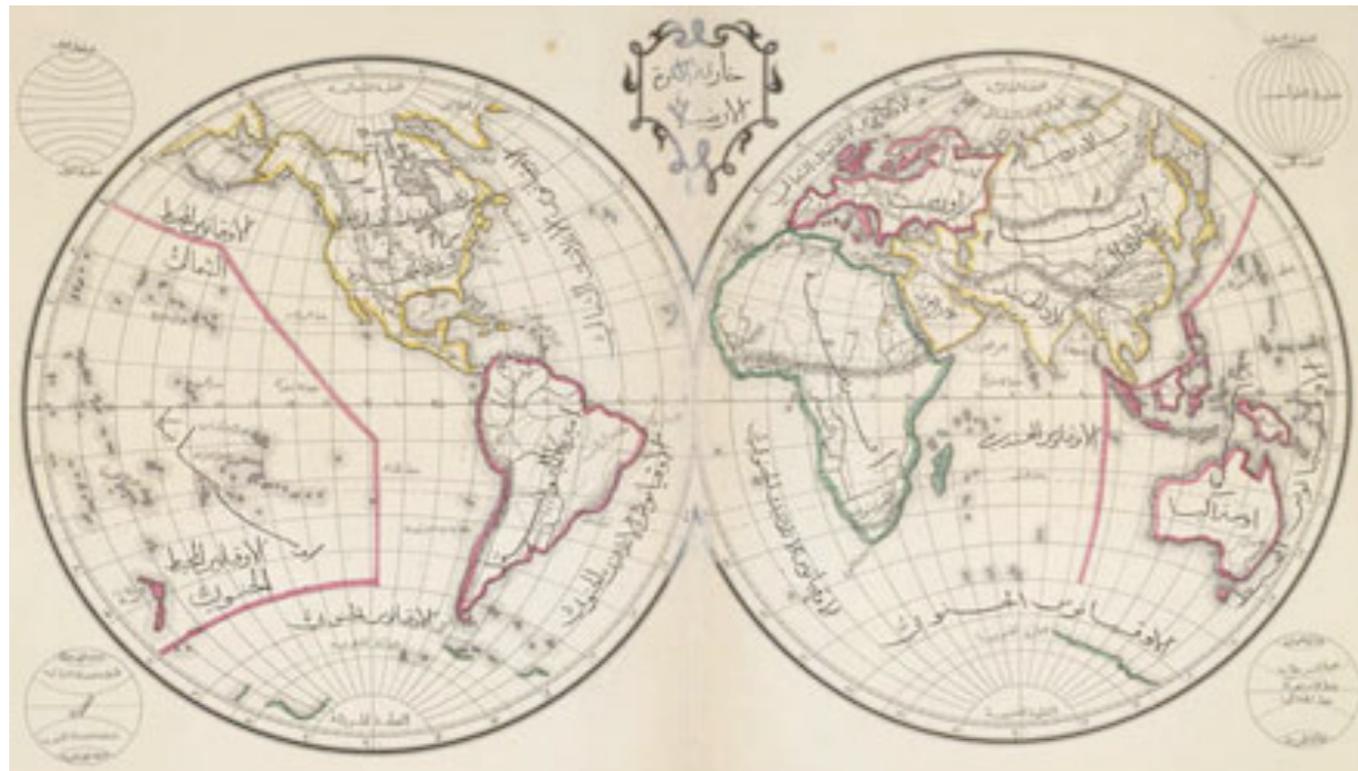
Introduction

- The Digitization of History Project
- What is a text? How do historians use it?
- In the digital archive: three case studies
- Omissions and the archive of the future
- Catalogues and content

The Digitization of History Project

- Created in May, 2007 at CHE
- Bring together disparate communities: historians, archivists, computer scientists
- Engage historians in dialogue about effects of digitization on historical methodology
- Seek to influence digitization projects to ensure results usable for historical research

World history perspective



- Recent focus on ‘Atlantic history’, transnational histories, world history.
- World historians used to interdisciplinary collaboration (Indian/ Atlantic ocean ‘worlds’)
- Using postcolonial archives provides unique insight into biases/ silences in collections.

What is a text?

(no Derrida, we promise!)



- Palimpsest of text, context and readers
- Faith in fakes: original vs. perfect replica
- Marginalia rehabilitated in the digital age?
- Strong desire to exploit scarce sources

Archive stories

- Integrity of the collection: provenance
- Book (or vellum/laundry list...) more than just a container to be discarded when information has been extracted
- Silences and fragments in the archives
- Cataloging and the limits of archival sources

Historians and IT

(not all Luddites!)

- Large scholarly online communities: H-Net
- Extensive use of online catalogues/sources
- Social and economic history relies on GIS and quantitative methods (but often isolated from 'traditional' history)
- Bibliographic software and databases
- Understand fragility of archives

In the digital archive...

- Roles of historians as producers and consumers of a spectrum of digital archives
 - Google Book Search
 - The National Archives
 - The Robert Hart archive at Queen's University Belfast

Case studies

Sir Robert Hart Collection
Queen's University Belfast
Library Special Collections

Home > Search Results > Diary Display

Page Number: GO

First Previous 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 Next Last

Collection Title: Robert Hart Manuscript Collection
Document Reference: MS 15/1/31/385
Diary Volume Number: Hart Diary
Date: 31 August 1885 - 27 February 1887
Document Type: Diary
Content Type: Text

Transcript

Monday 21 Feb. Decidedly better today, thank God, but not all right yet. In office all day: Ta and Hsi-tung called in the forenoon: what they wanted yesterday was to ask explanations: Doting had telegraphed to Li and then Li to Yamen "Hunt telegraph" not to let French into Port Arthur ports, for European news is bad. Memo will be settled in a week. What says Customs? So I explained that in the frontier I was [?] a few days ago.

1. Knowing French refused to [?] Chingping.
2. " Chinese " " " gives up.
3. Reuter's telegram [?] recent treaty between Germany and China.

I had given [?] to D on the safe side. They said there's no "secret treaty" (of course: how could they know it if there were) and also that Cortas, to whom they have yielded on the frontier treaty points somewhat would telegraph to Paris and that Téng has wired Dillon already recognized [?] in Chinese: so that trouble seems over.

Several telegrams from Campbell about Macao: we are gradually stretching the stock into position and shaping it to fit the hole! He also wires that Billot will try and get Paris to give up [?] and evacuate

The National Archives

Search the archives | Census records

Home > Search the archives > Census records

Census records

Searching census records

Online

Census records for England and Wales from 1841 to 1901 are available online. The work of making the records available has been carried out by our partners, so please follow the links below to their websites.

It is free to search their websites, but there is a small charge to download images of individual census entries.

RELATION to Head of Family	Condition Marriage	Age last Birthday
Low		9
Low		4
Head		4

Catalogue reference: RG 13/958

Culture and Imperialism - Google Book Search

http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=T8RjAAAAMAAJ&q=boyology+Said&dq=boyology+

Culture and Imperialism By Edward W. Said

A landmark work from the intellectually auspicious author of *Orientalism* that explores the long-overlooked connections between the Western imperial endeavor and the culture that both reflected and reinforced it. "Said is a brilliant . . . scholar, aesthete and political activist."—Washington Post Book World.

More details
Culture and Imperialism
By Edward W. Said
Published by Vintage Books, 1994
Original from the University of Michigan
Digitized 9 May 2008
ISBN 0679750541, 9780679750543
380 pages

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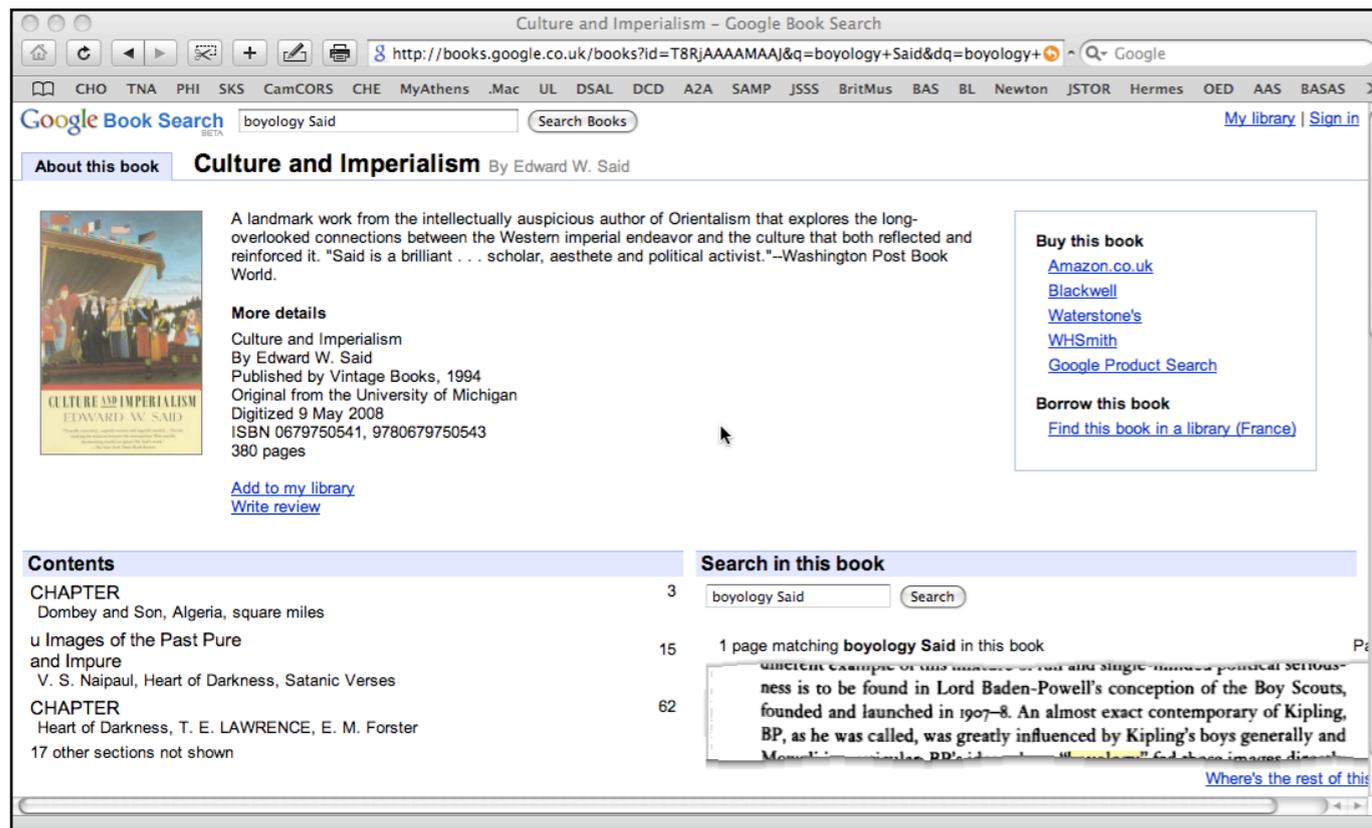
Search in this book

boyology Said

1 page matching boyology Said in this book

... is to be found in Lord Baden-Powell's conception of the Boy Scouts, founded and launched in 1907-8. An almost exact contemporary of Kipling, BP, as he was called, was greatly influenced by Kipling's boys generally and

Google Book Search



- Private corporation
- Vast scanning project with iterative OCR and full-text search
- Limited collection and catalogue information
- “Not for academics”

The National Archives

The screenshot shows the National Archives website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links. The main content area is titled "Census records" and "Searching census records". It includes a section for "Online" records, a small image of a census form, and a table listing available census records by year and search criteria.

Census	Search by				Provided by
1901	Person	Address	Vessel	Institution	1901censusonline.com
1891	England	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	Ancestry.co.uk
1881	England	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	Ancestry.co.uk
1871	England	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	Ancestry.co.uk
1861	England	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	Ancestry.co.uk
1851	England	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	Ancestry.co.uk
1841	England	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	Ancestry.co.uk

- Government agency: crown copyright
- Preservation and public access mandate
- Public/private partnerships for content: companies scan and distribute material
- Wiki model as bridge

Sir Robert Hart Collection

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the 'Sir Robert Hart Collection' page. The browser address bar shows 'http://digitalcollections.qub.ac.uk/digital-image-gallery/hart/result-'. The page header includes the collection name and the Queen's University Belfast logo. Below the header, there are navigation links: Home, About Page, Browse, and Digital Collections. The main content area shows a search result for 'Diary Display'. A navigation bar includes links for 'First', 'Previous', '387', '388', '389', '390', '391', '392', '393', '394', '395', '396', '397', 'Next', and 'Last'. The main content area displays a handwritten diary entry on the left and a metadata table on the right. The metadata table includes fields for Collection Title, Document Reference, Diary Volume Number, Date, Document Type, and Content Type. Below the metadata table, there is a 'Transcript' section containing the typed text of the diary entry.

Collection Title	Robert Hart Manuscript Collection
Document Reference	MS 15/1/31/385
Diary Volume Number	Hart Diary
Date	31 August 1885 - 27 February 1887
Document Type	Diary
Content Type	Text

Transcript

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- University archive
- Research grant sponsored digitization, transcription, cross-referencing by a historian
- Potential of digital scholarly editions to widen access, allow new kinds of analysis

Omissions and the archive of the future

- No market for historian-centric digitization
- Weak incentives for sustainable academic involvement in digitization projects
- Born-digital records present new problems
- OCR technologies currently very weak
- Digital gold rush effect: just one chance...

Catalogues and content

- Reassessment of archive: reintroducing marginalia, intimacy with text
- From scarcity value to a common source foundation: leads to new kind of history
- Rediscovering the catalogue: more than 'markup' or 'metadata'
- The business case for 'academic' archives