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New Digital Resources: Shakespeare and Early Modern Culture

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During this research period the principal investigator used and developed early modern digital platforms to examine Shakespeare and early modern culture. While doing so, the programing languages of existing platforms were explored and studied to determine the feasibility of building a database on the bookshops and public sermons at Paul's Cross churchyard in the City of London during the early modern period. This exploration produced publications and led to several invited talks. This project also produced research that demonstrates the potential of existing recent digital platforms and laid the groundwork for the digitizing of special early modern collections held in Japan, specifically religious and literary books from the early modern period.

Digital Humanities Shakespeare Early Modern Studies Early Modern Drama Church History Lost Plays Early Modern Sermons Digital editions

For my entire career, I have been involved with computer assisted research and Internet development and have used online technology to assist me in my own research on Shakespearean drama and early modern drama and culture. My first book, **Reforming Marlowe**, and subsequent publications have required extensive bibliographical research, which over the years has been greatly aided by developments in digital technology. I have stayed apace of these developments and have assisted digital developers. I have therefore been involved with the digital humanities for some time. More recent movements in digital development have led me to become directly involved in digital humanities projects and research. In recent years I have worked closely with members of the EEBO-TCP development team and have worked with members of the National Endowment of the Humanities funded **Virtual Paul's Cross Project**. This involvement preceded the work that was focused on in this project but contributed to the successful outcomes described below

To advance the field of early modern digital development and digital research in general with regard to humanistic study in Japan.

- Using and developing early moder digital platforms to examine Shakespeare and early modern culture.
- Publishing research that explores the programing languages for new digital platforms to develop a database for Paul's Cross churchyard in the City of London during the early modern period.
- Producing research that demonstrates the potential of these platforms and that seeks to digitized early modern special collections in Japan.

This project succeeded in advancing research in the digital humanities on three levels. On all levels the results were greatly aided by the support afforded by the JSPS.

On the first level this projected successfully contributed to the development of digital humanities

databases in the publication of refereed material in these databases. Along with publishing results from bibliographical research, this effort required attendance at national and international conferences to study current trends in DH research. It also required training sessions in Japan to master the basic programming codes specific to the two databases that were being developed. The records of 6 lost plays were found and described and cross referenced with other research on the rise in theatre activity before and during the Shakespearean period. This effort helped to build the prestige of **Lost Plays Database**, a platform that was begun under the auspices of David McInnis at the University of Melbourne, but that recently has been acquired by the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC. **Lost Plays Database** is now featured as part of the open access digital collections of the Folger. This project also contributed to the development of the **Agas Map of Early Modern London Online** and, while preparing an annotation on St Paul's in early modern London, it was necessary to master the encoding protocols to prepare a publication within an XML digital platform.

On the second level, this project sought to publish and and present on humanistic research that uses new digital platforms and tools. Several talks, including invited talks, sought to show how new online and searchable platforms can be mined and cross referenced to find new meanings in Reformation thought and early modern drama, including Shakespeare. The focus on this research was largely the St Paul's cathedral precinct in the Elizabethan London, and in particular the bookshops and public sermons of Paul's Cross churchyard. The research produced on this subject successfully demonstrates how Shakespeare and early modern drama were tied to spaces within the City of London and with the enormous religious and cultural changes Elizabethan society was undergoing. References to specific sites, including bookshops and religious gathering spaces in the early modern City of London were tracked in such plays as **Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, and A Midsummer Night's Dream**. Now there is enough material assembled now on this subject to begin seeking a publisher for a book-length project. The upshot of these digital research conclusions is that

seemingly small movements in culture and religion in 16th century London maintained an impact, an enormous impact if one gauges the tenacity of the drama and reformed religious thought through the ages, and continue to guide thinking and, indeed, policy decisions on a global scale to this day.

On the third level, the project also aided other scholars in or interested in the field of digital humanities by providing funding for national and international conference participation. The ability to meet with technical experts and library scientists helped to promote digital database scholarship in the early modern period. Also this funding aided in the sponsorship and participation in digital humanities workshops. The activity produced by this project led to several invited talks, including a talk at the digital scholarship branch of the Bodleian library in Oxford and a public talk at the prestigious Cosmos Club in Washington, DC. Also this activity led to the formation of a collaborative effort with the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, to digitize special collections of early modern material held in Japan, beginning with King James Bibles and other select works held in the Religious Studies collection at Aoyama Gakuin University.

There is a fourth result of this project, an important result, though it that cannot be officially listed here because speaks to intangible outcomes. These outcomes, though, should be offered up in passing because they reveal how this project has promoted global outreach from Japan and contributed to the future of international cooperation in digital humanities development. This project heightened awareness of DH efforts in Japan from scholars at major global research institutions and from prominent libraries, including the Bodleian, British, and Folger libraries. Given the JSPS support the principal investigator was afforded, the research results herein have been shared with like-minded scholars ranging from Japan to Australia, to Canada, to England and Europe, and, of course, to the United States. Excellent alliances have been forged that promise future support of this research and greater recognition of Japan's role in this and other global initiatives in the digital humanities.

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Thomas Dabbs 'The Office of the Revels in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*' in *Spaces of Making and Thinking*, ed. Colin Murry, Sophie Pitman, and Tianna Uchacz (Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, Univ. of Toronto). Accepted, forthcoming 2019. Refereed.

Thomas Dabbs 'Paul's Cross Churchyard,' in *Agas Map of Early Modern London* (Online) ed. Janelle Jenstad (Victoria: Univ. of Victoria). Web. Accepted, forthcoming September 2018. Refereed.

Thomas Dabbs 'A Masque of Amazons,' in *Lost Plays Database*, ed. David McInnis (University of Melbourne 2009, opened 2017). Web. Refereed.

Thomas Dabbs 'The Soldan' in *Lost Plays Database*, ed. David McInnis (University of Melbourne 2009, opened 2017). Web. Refereed.

Thomas Dabbs "The Buzz of the City: Paul's Walk and Shakespearean Drama in Early Modern London," in *Proceeds of the English Literary Society of Japan Conference* (2017). Non-refereed.

Thomas Dabbs "The Extended Language of Religious Reform: Marking up a Register for Early Modern Sermons," *Proceeds of the DH2017 Conference* (2017). Web. Refereed.

Thomas Dabbs "Shakespeare and the Digital Echoes of the City," in *Proceeds of the Shakespeare Society of Japan Conference* (f2018). Non-refereed.

Thomas Dabbs "Chariclea," in *Lost Plays Database* (Online) ed. Roslyn L. Knutson and David McInnis (Melbourne: University of Melbourne 2009, 2016). Refereed.

Thomas Dabbs "Cupid and Psyche," in *Lost Plays Database* (Online) ed. Roslyn L. Knutson and David McInnis (Melbourne: University of Melbourne, 2009, 2016). Refereed.

Thomas Dabbs "A Greek Maid," in *Lost*

Plays Database (Online) ed. Roslyn L. Knutson and David McInnis (Melbourne: University of Melbourne, 2009, 2016). Refereed.

Thomas Dabbs "Queen of Ethiopia," in *Lost Plays Database* (Online) ed. Roslyn L. Knutson and David McInnis (Melbourne: University of Melbourne, 2009, 2016). Refereed.

Thomas Dabbs "The Echo of Print: Outing Shakespeare's Source Code at St Paul's," *JADH 2016: Proceedings of the 6th Conference of the Japanese Association for Digital Humanities* (2016). Web. Refereed.

Thomas Dabbs "Tracking the Digital Echoes between Churchyard and Theatre in Shakespeare's London," *Proceedings of the DH 2015 Conference* (2015). Web. Refereed.

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Thomas Dabbs "Shakespeare in Japan," present to members of the Cosmos Club at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC, on April 20th, 2018. Invited Talk.

Thomas Dabbs "*A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Playmaking in the Office of the Revels," presented at the Renaissance Society of America Conference in New Orleans on March 24th, 2018.

Thomas Dabbs "The March of Fortinbras: An Apology for Fiction, and Reality," presented at the 9th Annual Liberlit Conference at Seikei University in Tokyo on February 19th, 2018.

Thomas Dabbs "Shakespeare and the Digital Echoes of the City," presented for the Shakespeare Society of Japan Conference at Kindai University, Osaka, on October 8th, 2017. Panelist. Invited Talk.

Thomas Dabbs "William Painter and the Playwrights," presented for the Before Shakespeare conference at Roehampton University, London, on August 8th, 2017.

Thomas Dabbs "The Extended Language of Religious Reform: Marking up a Register for Early Modern Sermons," presented at the DH2017 conference at McGill Univ. in Montreal on August 8th, 2017.

Thomas Dabbs "The Office of the Revels in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*," presented for the Tokyo Humanities Café in Shimokitazawa, Tokyo, on June 6th, 2017. Invited Talk.

Thomas Dabbs "The Buzz of the City: Paul's Walk and Shakespearean Drama in Early Modern London," presented at the ELSJ conference at the Univ. of Shizuoka, Shizuoka, on May 5th, 2017.

Thomas Dabbs "Using Digital Tools to Demystify and Re-Mystify: The Case of Theseus and Hippolyta in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*," presented at Liberlit 8 at TWCU, Tokyo, on February 20th, 2017.

Thomas Dabbs "The Echo of Print: Outing Shakespeare's Source Code at St Paul's," a long paper presented at the 6th JADH 2016 conference at the University of Tokyo on September 20th, 2016.

Thomas Dabbs "Digital Hermeneutics and Cross Platform Research: Walking to the Theatre in Shakespeare's London," presented for the Bodleian Library, Oxford, England, on September 1st, 2016. Invited Talk.

Thomas Dabbs "Tracking the Digital Echoes between Churchyard and Theatre in Shakespeare's London," presented at DH 2015 at the University of Western Sydney, Australia, July 3rd, 2015.

Thomas Dabbs "The Churchyard in Shakespearean Theatre," presented at the Shakespearean Theatre Conference: Language in Text and Performance, Univ. of Waterloo, Stratford, Canada, on June 19th, 2015.

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