Editions and Archives: textual editing and the Nineteenth-Century Serials Edition

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A ‘family tree’ of the *Monthly Repository*
It is important that digital editions of periodicals open up content to users. However, the nature of this content is contextual and therefore we have to address relationships.

Relationships:

- Structural / hierarchical relationships
- Generic / thematic relationships
- Form, typographies
- Content
- Prosopographical relationships

Existing Models

In this archive display of search results isolates content from its context and some of the content of the segment (see highlight left) is lost. On selecting full page view users can only zoom in on segments of content rather than elements of form.

Great Finger-Print Competition

First Prize, £5: Six Gramophones

The value and uses of fingerprints are no news to anyone. We have heard of their use in identifying criminals and in distinguishing between two persons who are supposed to be identical. But have you ever thought of the possibilities of the fingerprint as a means of identification? At a recent meeting of the American Society of Fingerprint Examiners it was suggested that fingerprints might be useful in the identification of works of art. It was estimated that if the police were to use fingerprints to identify works of art they would be able to identify forged works in a much shorter time than would otherwise be possible.

Illustrations

The illustrations in this file were published mostly as engravings made from

Source: British Library digitisation of the Penny Illustrated News:
http://www.collectbritain.co.uk/system/paper/
TO THE IMPERIAL CHARTISTS.

My dear friends,—In a leader in last week's Star, the Editor, in speaking of my joining the Repeal Association, says that he is glad that I got a “rap on the knuckles” for my over zeal. It was the first I have had; nor, I fear, will it be the last. I however entirely agree with the Editor that it was merited; while I think a majority will pity those who gave it more than him who received it.

I am now going to write about our own affairs; and I have the consolation to know that when I write for men engaged in a noble struggle for liberty, instead of “a rap on the knuckles,” receive correction in the mildest form in which sound reason and good feeling can administer it.

We must now re-organize! We must sit from that point where we were stopped!

The preliminary step which I propose is the appointment of a General Secretary, pro tem; whom nominations shall be sent preparatory to the election of an Executive; and as we may place confidence somewhere; and as Mr. Whee has already filled that office during the absence of the late Secretary; and as he was elected his own order, and discharged the duties to the satisfaction; I propose that he shall be the man and that when the votes are to be taken for the Executive that a delegate shall be appointed from each Chartist district in London, to aid and assist him in making his return.
ncse titles:

- *Monthly Repository of Theology and General Literature* (1806-1838)
- *Publishers’ Circular* (1880-1890)
- *Tomahawk* (1867-1870)
- *English Woman’s Journal* (1858-1864)
- *Leader* (1850-1859)
- *Northern Star* (1838-1852)

ncse features:

- Full-text searchable OCR with facsimile images
- Delineation of content in searching: letterpress adverts and illustrations
- Metadata and concept maps to trace commonalities within and between titles
- Contextual and scholarly materials
- Foregrounds periodical as a genre

ncse highlights:

- Diversity of periodical forms
- Diversity of material (in terms of content)
- Challenges distinctions between newspapers and periodicals
Changes of format and paper size in the *Northern Star* over its run are obscured by non-annotated digitisations and shared form with other titles like the *Leader*.

Northern Star with multiple columns presents content spatially and synchronically, multiple editions.

Editorial intervention needed to deal with these differences?
The Northern Star
AND LEEDS GENERAL ADVERTISER
Vol. 1, No. 50.
No. 45, Wednesday, January 29, 1840.

Document of the Scottish State

The "Sicilians" in the Field of Stirling, January 14th.
“The Duke of Wellington’s Funeral,” The Star of Freedom (previously the Northern Star), 13 November 1852, p. 212

“The Duke of Wellington’s Funeral,” The Times, 6 November 1852, p. 5.
“The People’s Guide! Or the Man with the Muck-Rake,” *Tomahawk*, 1, 19 October 1867, unpaginated.
Words and pictures - representing relationships


“Samson Agonistes,” Tomahawk, 1, 27 July 1867, p. 136
Existing applications:
Enterprise Publisher (above right) is designed for books and journal articles, Active Paper Archive (below right) is designed for newspapers.
Editorial Challenges – representing form
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Editorial policy

• Build as complete an edition as possible, paying particular attention to the complexities of the genre. We will create composite runs from multiple archives and with multiple editions, offshoot titles, supplements, portraits, advertising wrappers.

• Represent content in historical and generic context, attending to form and complex relationships within and between publications.

• Identify needs and interests of wide user groups, from academic specialists in nineteenth print culture to school users.

• Develop presentation and analysis tools that address these needs.

Summary and Conclusions

• Editors of digital editions of periodicals are both editors, publishers and hawkers.

• Complex relationships replace the author as an analytical focus and force us to consider not just the text but the object as a whole.

• Editing an edition is about transformation, not just reproduction.

• Transformation between media entails loss and editors must identify where this occurs.

• Editors must attend not only to editing the source material but also to the means of making it into something new.