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Roundtable: Digitizing Food in the Book

Food and the Book: 1300-1800

10th October 2020

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AHRC US-UK Food Digital Scholarship Network

Centre for Food Policy
Educating, researching & influencing for integrated and inclusive food policy

- **Primary objectives (2019-2020)**

1) Increase the interest in and use of digital scholarship methods, and digital collections in the area of food studies and linked fields in the UK and the US, with a view to forming larger, longer-term collaborations and research projects.

2) A mapping of food digitised collections (current and possible in the future).

3) Harmonisation of food related digital content and metadata, with the aim to link current and future digital collections together. Produce recommendations for community discussion.

Smithsonian National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center
USF University of South Florida
Jisc
The University of Edinburgh
N8 AgriFood
University of York
University of Brighton
wellcome collection
Folger Shakespeare Library Advancing knowledge & the arts
The University of Southern Mississippi
The University Of Sheffield.
University of Leeds
The Linnean Society of London
Boston University
Arts & Humanities Research Council

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1. Pilot Activities
2. Surveys

Common Key challenges for digital food research

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- Pilot Activities
  - Digitising "community collections" – (sharing practice and experience) Leeds/USM
  - Searching for texts and material – Smithsonian / Boston, Edinburgh

    Looking for Food in the New Smithsonian Institution Catalog, a White Paper
    https://doi.org/10.15131/shef.data.12993383.v1
  - The Sifter www.sifter.org
  - Discussions of how to link IIIF, databases, and transcription tools.
  - NLP of recipes, pilot application to various collections.

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- Surveys (2019-2020)
  - Community Survey (n=200) https://doi.org/10.15131/shef.data.12994178.v1
  - Archive Survey (n=45)

Wide respondents from Archives and Community members

US (40/50%) /UK (28%) /Canada (9/6%) /AU (5/8%) /NZ/EU etc.

Wide age/technical readiness/need and wants.

Digitization expands the table – but comes with unique challenges

Common Key challenges

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Network-research themes

1. Manuscripts	2. Printed documents	3. Other digital collections
& hand written materials	Books, periodicals, menus etc.	*Image, Sound , Mass obs etc.*

Stakeholders and network members

UK and US cultural institutions
Currently with digitised and digital food collections and archives.

UK and US cultural institutions
wanting to develop digitised and digital food collections and archives.

US and UK researchers and practitioners
in the digital scholarship of food. New and current.

US and UK researchers and practitioners
of digital research methods and archiving. Introducing food as a new area for research.

- Funding – where to get money to research/ digitise (Staff/Time/Cost & Access)
- Understand what is available/useful/discoverable.
  - How do we link our collections and search?
  - Is full OCR needed?
  - Metadata standards
  - Paywalls, copyright, and open access
- Establish/normalise new methods of digitizing, accessing and research.

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Comments?
Questions?

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