



Open Source History: Making History Public

The American Association for History and Computing (AAHC)

2007 Annual Meeting

In association with the Brown University Public Humanities Program
& Brown University Libraries

Providence, RI

April 19-21, 2007

The AAHC invites you to make history public...

Join the American Association for History and Computing (AAHC) and Brown University's Public Humanities Program for an innovative look at how technology allows increased dialogue between historians and a broad public audience. This conference will be of interest to anyone concerned with bringing history to a general audience, including museum professionals, archivists, librarians, historic preservationists, filmmakers, as well as academic historians. The conference will explore:

- The role of technology in breaking down the barriers between historians and the public
- Ways that historians have used technology to communicate with diverse audiences
- How the practice of "academic history" changes when made public
- New forms of collaboration between historians, archivists, librarians, historic preservationists, teachers and students
- New forms of display and historical representation

If you are an historian (academic, public, secondary education, graduate student), or engage history through a related discipline (librarian, archivist, publisher, editor, etc.), this conference will provide a chance to meet other professionals to discuss technology's use in history. We hope you can join us in Providence!

The AAHC Annual Meeting will be held at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. It is sponsored by the John Nicholas Brown Center for the Study of American Civilization, home of Brown's new Public Humanities program.

Brown University has on campus a small inn. The Saunders Inn at Brown University may be contacted at The_Inn@brown.edu or by calling 401-863-7500. Other accommodations can be found at the Providence/Warwick Conventions and Visitors Bureau web site (www.pwcvb.com). Parking around campus can be hard to find, especially on weekdays, so plan accordingly. There will be some parking on Benefit Street and in Visitor lots, but public transportation should be considered first.

Flights into Providence (PVD - <http://www.pvdairport.com/>) are on all major carriers. Participants may also be able to use Boston Logan airport. Providence is a one hour drive from Boston an hour and a half from Hartford, CT, and about three and a half hours from New York City. Providence is also accessible by Amtrak. Regular bus service is available from all major points. Statewide bus service is provided by [RIPTA](#), which provides direct access from the airport to downtown. Downtown hotels are a short walk from Brown.

Once in Providence, there is an extensive array of eateries and activities. Since the conference will conclude on Saturday night, the organizers suggest staying an extra day to see this great city. From the downtown skating rink to the various theaters and museums, from the downtown mall to the Rhode Island State House, Providence has lots of great places to visit. Participants may also want to explore nearby Boston - accessible by commuter train from downtown - while in the region.

The conference headquarters is at 357 Benefit Street, Providence, RI in the Nightingale-Brown House. For more information contact Chelsea Shriver at 401-863-1177.

Schedule of Program

Thursday, April 19

Registration will be held at the Nightingale Brown House (357 Benefit Street) 3-7pm.

3:00-5:00

Workshop: "Saving Heritage Resources with Internet Video" (JNBC)

John Leeke, Preservation Consultant, Historic Homeworks

Interactive video over the internet is one of the newest forms of collaboration between history professionals and the people they serve. Viewers of the video can connect directly with developers of the video in real time or near-real time. Video viewers can leave text comments and questions in blog format, with the video creators responding with text or video. Even more exciting, video viewers and creators converse with each other in real time via a video conferencing system.

This workshop illustrates how video and the internet are now used by preservation tradespeople in their work on historic buildings to save our cultural heritage. Specific topics covered include internet video blogging, and live online conferencing. Possibilities are public interpretation of an exhibit by displaying video at a website with the staff responding to questions from the public and research requests; or behind-the-scenes technical training of conservation staff; or to provide live interactive access to difficult locations for disabled persons.

Workshop: Zotero and Annotating the Web (JNBC)

Trevor Owens, Technology Evangelist, Zotero/George Mason University

Tremendous progress has been made in putting scholarly and research materials online however far less progress been made in the development of tools to facilitate use of online resources. This presentation/workshop demonstrates Zotero, a tool developed at the Center for History and New Media, which aims to fill this gap. Half of the time will be presentation and half open for discussion and questions.

Walking Tour: Exploring Providence's History (JNBC)

Join William Mackenzie Woodward, Senior Architectural Historian from the RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission for a walking tour of Providence.

7:00 pm

Keynote Address: "Universal Access to Human Knowledge (Or Public Access to Digital Materials)" (SB 106)

Brewster Kahle, Director and Co-founder, The Internet Archive

The goal of universal access to our cultural heritage is within our grasp. With current digital technology we can build comprehensive collections, and with digital networks we can make these available to students and scholars all over the world. The current challenge is establishing the roles, rights, and responsibilities of our libraries and archives in providing public access to this information. With these roles defined, our institutions will help fulfill this epic opportunity of our digital age.

8:00-9:00 pm

Opening Reception at the Nightingale-Brown House (JNBC)

Sponsored by Muzzy Lane Software, Inc.

Join the AAHC in celebration of another great Annual Meeting!

(Site abbreviations are as follows: JNBC = John Nicholas Brown Center for American Civilization/Nightingale-Brown House, SB = Smith-Buonanno, Hay = Hay Library/Lownes Room)

3:00 - 3:30 pm - **Break**

3:30 - 5:00 pm

Session I: *Democratizing History On-Line* (JNBC)

Chair - Gail Reimer, Jewish Women's Archive

The Jewish Women's Archive: Doing History in Cyberspace

Karla Goldman, Jewish Women's Archive

Mass Moments: Putting Massachusetts On-Line

Ellen Rothman, Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities

The Murray Center: Moving from Microfilm to Megabytes

Copeland Young, Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science

Session II: *History's Theater: Theater Preserved, History Performed* (Hay)

Chair – Aaron Marcavitch, AAHC

Cuban/Latino Theater Archive: A Media Rich Learning and Preservation Archive
for Theater History

Dr. Lillian Manzor, University of Miami

Dr. Lyn MacCorkle, University of Miami

“Illuminated Manuscripts:” The Palimpsest Project

Deke Weaver, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign)

Session III: *“Death Among Strangers: Gender, Race, and Space in the Mortality Statistics of Rio de Janeiro, 1840s-1880s.”* (JNBC)

Chair – Jim Green, Brown University

Zephyr Frank, Stanford University

Sidney Chaloub, State University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Campinas Brazil

5:00 - 7:00 pm - **Dinner (on you own)**

7:00 pm

Special Event: The Port Huron Project (List Art Center, 120)

The Port Huron Project is a series of reenactments of protest speeches from the New Left movements of the 1960s and '70s. The project is named after The Port Huron Statement, a visionary manifesto drafted by Tom Hayden for the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). For our special event, Mark Tribe will show a DVD version of this project and discuss the multimedia effort. This project is directed by Mark Tribe - an artist and curator whose interests lie at the intersection of emerging technologies and contemporary art. He is Assistant Professor of Modern Culture and Media Studies at Brown University, where he teaches courses in the theory and practice of digital media.

Saturday, April 21

Registration will be held at the Nightingale Brown House (357 Benefit Street) 9am-Noon.

9:00-10:00 am

Session I: *Connecting Points: Interaction of Public and Academic History* (SB 106)

Chair – Eric Nay, Ontario College of Art and Design

Simulation as Historical Representation: Using New Media to Construct Multiple Narratives of Homeownership in 1960 Chicago
Jillian Hinegardner, University Akron

Mapping “Professional” and “Vernacular” History
David Staley, Ohio State University

Weblogs: Breaking Barriers Between History and Public
Jeremy Boggs, George Mason University

Session II: *“Citizens All.” Connecting Websites and Historic Sites* (SB 201)

Chair – Namrata Venkatraman, University of Texas

Teresa DeFlicht, Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, Bush-Holley Historic Site
Angela Keiser, Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, Yale University

10:00 - 10:30 am - **Break**

10:30 - 11:30 am

Session I: *The Animated Atlas of African History: Teaching & Reference Tool* (SB 201)

Chair – Kerry Smith, Brown University

Giovanna Roz, Brown University
Nancy Jacobs, Brown University
Rolando Peate, The Open Planning Project

Session II: *“Making it Happen:” Technology in Field Use* (SB 106)

Chair - Pat Malone, Brown University

GIS, Databases & Context Statements: Innovative Methodologies for Historic Surveys
Chris Hetzel, Jones & Stokes

The Burdens of Public Proofs and the Question of Manifestation in Archaeology: On the Powers of Located and Participatory Media

Chris Witmore, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World, Brown University

11:30 - 1:30 pm - **Lunch (on your own)**

12:30 - 1:30 pm

Annual Meeting of the American Association for History and Computing (SB 106)

Join the AAHC for their annual business meeting where organizational decisions will be made for the upcoming year. All voting members are invited to participate.

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Session I: *Accessing History: Using Technology to Mine History* (SB 106)

Chair – Deborah Lines Andersen, University of Albany

The Role of Technology in Accessing Visual History

Eric Nay, Ontario College of Art and Design

Making History Public in an Age of Closed Access

Shawn Martin, University of Michigan

Session II: *Reaching the Public: Education through Technology* (SB 201)

Chair – Steven Lubar, Brown University

Small Museums Confront Digital History Together

Glenn Perkins, Historic Hope Foundation

“Nature’s Web:” Using the Internet to Promote Scholarship and Education in
Environmental History

Elizabeth Arnold Hull, Forest History Society

2:30 - 3:00 pm - **Break**

3:00 - 4:00 pm

Session I: *Discovering Data: Deep Analysis of Digital Information* (SB 106)

Chair – Shawn Martin, University of Michigan

Tracking Links in Online Journals: A Study and Discussion of Link Viability in the *Journal of the Association for History and Computing*

Deborah Lines Andersen, University at Albany

A Historiographic Analysis of Visual Texts: Reviewing Information Graphic Methodologies as a Means of Historical Argument

J.D. Jordan, University of Georgia

Session II: *“Speaking Out Loud:” New Media and History* (SB 201)

Chair – Aaron Marcavitch, AAHC

Oral History, New Media and the Grassroots Labor History of Working Women

Christine Zinni, Ph.D., Randforce Associates

“The American Presidency on Cylinder and Disc Record:” Getting the Message Across to the Public in the Pre-Radio/Television Eras

Scott Calhoun, Franklin Perkins School

4:15 - 4:45 pm

Closing Comments (SB 106)

Join the President and Executive Director of the American Association for History and Computing for closing comments on this year’s Annual Meeting.



Smith-Buonanno

Hay Library

John Nicholas Brown Center (HQ)

Registration:

Registration can be done on the internet via <http://www.theaahc.org>. We can accept credit card payments, purchase orders, or checks. Registration is limited due to space constraints, so register early to ensure a space in this exciting conference. If you are paying by purchase order or check, please use the online registration and more information will be provided.

Cost for the Annual Meeting is \$100 for all three days of the meeting. This includes a one year membership to AAHC. Students may register for \$90. Brown faculty, staff, and students should contact coordinator Aaron Marcavitch at aahc_providence@yahoo.com before registering.

Please direct inquiries to:

Aaron Marcavitch
President, AAHC
Phone: 508-325-6231
Email: aahc_providence@yahoo.com