

Moving Beyond the MLA & Deviant Modes of Scholarly Communication

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Ultra-condensed research instruction

Discovery tools - locating citations for
relevant literature; finding new and
unexpected primary sources

Online text collections - what type of full
text resources exist online for German lit

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Moving beyond the MLA

- Journals unassigned
- Indexing lag due to volunteer nature
- Infrequent updates
- Scope
- Ignores book reviews by policy

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Alternatives for Germanistik

- Bibliographie der deutschen Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft (BdSL, aka Eppelsheimer/Köttelwesch)
- IBZ - but few libraries have this
- Mega-databases: Expanded Academic, Academic Search Premier, ProQuest Research Database
- Periodicals Index Online

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More alternatives

- KVK - Karlsruher Virtueller Katalog
- VD16, VD17, VD18 (planned) and similar
- Creative uses for WorldCat - finding translations, contents, etc.
- IDZ - Index Deutschsprachiger Zeitschriften 1750 - 1815
- KLG - Das Kritische Lexikon zur deutschsprachigen Gegenwartsliteratur: the messy red binders

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And, yes, Google

- Machine indexing is very powerful
- Faster than any indexers out there
- Locates the obscure and remote without prejudice
- Try Google Scholar - I want to hate it, but just can't
- Ditto for Google Books

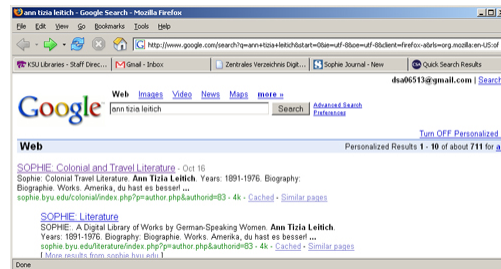
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The Sophie Journal example

- Not indexed anywhere
- What options are there besides mass Web indexes?



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Print resources

- "We're not dead yet"
- Still useful for more obscure topics
- *Germanistik*
- Check online before suffering: many are online or headed there
- Don't forget lowly microforms; still popular in Germany (Gerritsen, BdL, etc.)

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Online text collections

- Journals
- Reference works
- Primary texts

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Journal literature

- Far more titles online than five years ago
- Easily accessible if your library offers links (huh what?)
- Downside: most humanities journals bound up in fee-based services
- “German JSTOR” - Digizeitschriften

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Reference works

- DFG funding has created a boon
 - Grimm Wörterbuch
 - ADB, NDB
 - Lexer, Zedler, Adelung
- German publishers put obstacles in path
 - xipolis and Kindlers
 - Driven by print sales, not end-user needs

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Primary texts

- Most freely available
- Hard to find (the silo problem)
- Questions of citability, reliability, authority, etc.
- Various sources
 - GDZ in Göttingen
 - Bayerische Staatsbibliothek
 - Projekt Gutenberg
 - et al.

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Deviant modes of scholarly communication

Some assumptions

- ◉ Medium has no bearing on quality
- ◉ Digital preservation is a problem that will be and is being solved
- ◉ Open access should be the ultimate goal of all scholarly journals
 - Suber definition: Open-access literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions

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Open access

- Make all articles published available to all readers, free of charge, from day one
- Shift revenue stream from subscriptions to article processing fees, aka author fees (**≠ vanity publishing**) and/or other revenue sources
- May not save universities any money, but *will broaden access to scholarly information*

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Open access pioneers

- PLoS: Public Library of Science
- BioMed Central
- Highwire (selected titles)
- Numerous small, institution supported titles
- Advocacy: the BBB declarations, SPARC

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Four core issues for journals

- Findability
- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Sustainability

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Findability

- Adherence to standards: ISSN, DOI, OpenURL
- Identified in all relevant indices and directories
- Open to machine indexing: link and HTML structure must facilitate this
- Overexposure not really possible

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Accessibility

Assuming one can find a citation, how does one get the text?

Ascending order of ease:

- ◉ Print only
- ◉ Online
- ◉ Online, free (and OpenURL compliant!)

Think beyond one's immediate professional sphere

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Affordability

- Your journals have cheap subscription prices, but that's not the whole story (whose library can afford everything you want?)
- When serials are cut, humanities journals are also dropped "to share the pain"
- Serials prices do not scale; patterns must change

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Sustainability

- Print journals give us comfort
- German Quarterly is 78 years old
- Can we expect, in 78 years, to find an article published online in 2006?
- We need to get over paper

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Sustainability

- Technology is *not* the key issue or obstacle
- Must find revenue models that can sustain online projects - open access
- Scholars must change the ways they assess publications

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Case studies

- Glossen
 - Online since 1997
 - Open access - although not in DOAJ
 - Partially indexed in the MLA
 - Readability issues
 - What has its impact been?
- Sophie Journal - what is its future?

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Cyberinfrastructure

- 2006 ACLS report based on work done in 2004
- Unfortunate term, but the desire to plan a more digital future is laudable
 - Mandate open access for grant-funded research
 - Leadership from within the humanities
 - Encourage digital scholarship
 - Establish national centers

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A proposal

- Found and support a Center for Humanities Journals
- 100% open access, high-quality journals
- Take the isolated orphans and give them the support of a not-for-profit publisher
- Independent, i.e. - not the pet project of one institution

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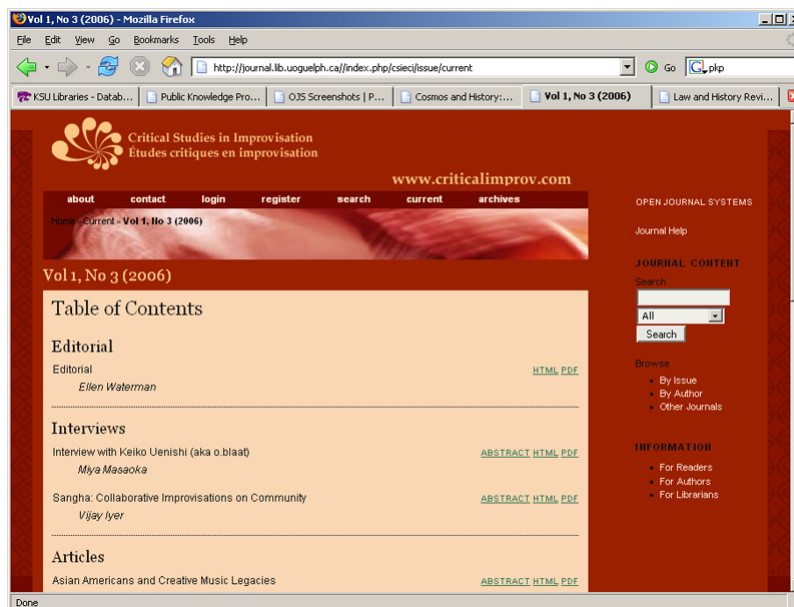
The PKP/OJS platform

- Public Knowledge Project
- Online Journal Systems
 - Open source software
 - Complete life cycle
 - Used by > 800 journals already, every last title is open access
- Large community of peers already involved in this

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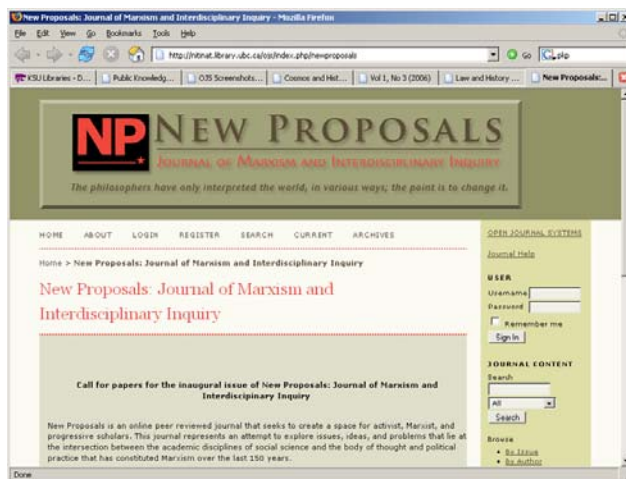
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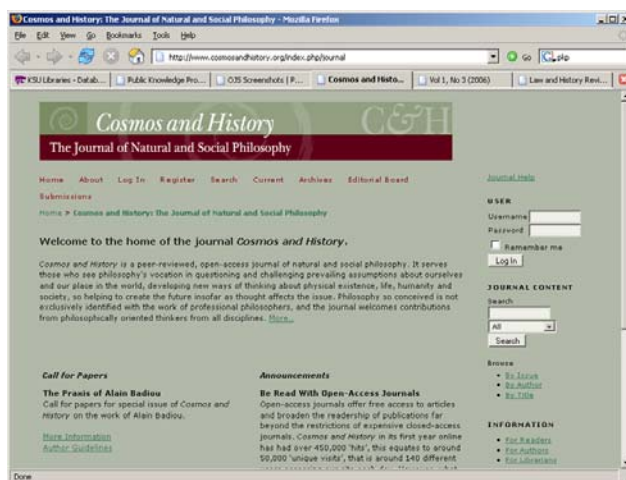
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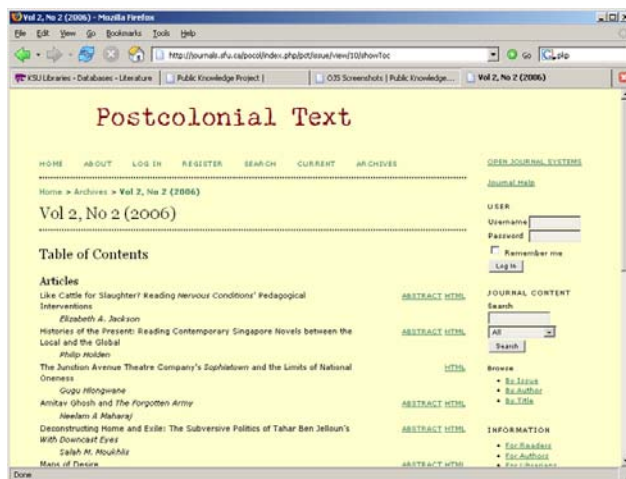
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Thank you

- Link list:

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