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Nebraska Digital Workshop Application

Prepared for: Katherine L. Walter, Co-Director, UNL Center for Digital Research in the Humanities
Prepared by: Jean Bauer, NINES Graduate Fellow
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Curriculum Vitae

Presentation Abstract

Early American Foreign Service Database

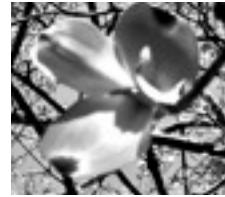
http://projectquincy.rubyforge.org/eafsd_index.html

Project Quincy

<http://projectquincy.rubyforge.org>

DAVILA

<http://www.jeanbauer.com/davila.html>



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Jean Ann Bauer

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Education

Ph.D. History, University of Virginia. Expected, May 2011

M.A. History, University of Virginia. August 2005

A.B. History, University of Chicago with Honors in History and The College. June 2004.

Dissertation

"Through a Glass Darkly: Creating the U.S. Foreign Service, 1775-1825"

The dissertation analyzes the origins of and early changes to the U.S. Foreign Service, beginning with the earliest attempts to engage French support for the American Revolution and ending with precedent-setting tenure of John Quincy Adams as Secretary of State. The research and analysis include creating *The Early American Foreign Service Database*, a Ruby on Rails and MySQL application designed and built by the author. *The Early American Foreign Service Database* (EAFSD) will catalog and connect, via their extant correspondence and government records, all United States diplomats and consuls who served during the first fifty years of the U.S. Foreign Service. In explaining how the Foreign Service functioned on a day-to-day basis during its formative years, the dissertation provides a unified understanding of American representation in the Age of Revolutions and rediscovers how the early U.S. Foreign Service worked closely with the merchant community to expand and protect American interests abroad.

Advisers: Peter S. Onuf and J.C.A. Stagg

Fellowships and Awards

GSAS Dissertation Year Fellowship, University of Virginia, 2010-2011

NINES Graduate Fellowship, 2009-2010

Digital Humanities Fellowship of the University of Virginia Library, 2008-2009

Summer Foreign Language Institute Fellowship, University of Virginia, 2005

Presidential Fellowship of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia, 2004 – 2008

The Anna M. and George N. Barnard Memorial Prize in American History, University of Chicago, 2004

Papers and Publications

Publications:

"Adams, John Quincy" *Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History, Volume 2: The Early Republic, 1784-1840*, Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2010.

"The Politics of (mis)Information: The Franco-American Intelligence Network, 1774-1776," forthcoming in the 2007 *Selected Papers of the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era*.

Papers:

"The Politics of (mis)Information: The Franco-American Intelligence Network, 1774-1776," Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, 1750-1850, James Madison University, March 2007.

Teaching Experience

University of Virginia:

Instructor, Summer 2010, Monticello History Institute: Exploring the World of Thomas Jefferson. This is a new program created in partnership with the Thomas Jefferson Foundation and the University of Virginia School of Continuing and Professional Studies. High school students and their teachers participate in an intensive two week session in Charlottesville designed to teach the fundamentals of historical research and writing. Created the syllabus and determined academic requirements. Responsible for grading and assessing student work and holding workshops with teachers on the use of primary sources in high school classrooms.

Instructor, Spring 2010, HIST 4501 From Vellum to Very Large Databases. Created new major seminar in the History Department that focuses on the changing nature of historical sources and the implications of these changes on the practice of academic history. Along with their academically rigorous reading, students are immersed in the physicality of sources through a series of hands-on experiences: inspecting medieval manuscripts, typesetting on a mechanical printing press, and geo-referencing historic maps onto current satellite images. Responsible for creating syllabus, holding weekly discussions, organizing meetings with technical specialists, grading and assessing student work.

Co-Instructor, Fall 2008, NCSS 054 The Monroe & Ash Lawn-Highland Lecture Series for Fall 2008. Wrote and delivered lecture "Republican Abroad: Monroe's Diplomatic Career under Washington, Jefferson, and Madison" followed by question and answer period. Course developed by Ash Lawn-Highland the University of Virginia's School of Continuing and Professional Studies.

Teaching Assistant, 2005-2008 Ancient Greece (twice); History of Rome; U.S. Military History; Nature and Technology in American History; and Espionage, Intelligence and Foreign Policy in the 20th Century

Supervising Professors: Elizabeth Meyer, Gary Gallagher, Jon E. Lendon, and Gerald Haines

Organized and led discussion sections. Wrote exams and essay questions in consultation with supervising professor. Graded and evaluated student work. Wrote and delivered the lecture "The New Nation Creates a Military Establishment, 1783-1808" for U.S. Military History, 1600-1900.

Related Professional Experience

Mary and David Harrison Institute for American History, Literature, and Culture: Graphics Designer for Albert H. Small Declaration of Independence Collection, Fall 2009

Designed a prototype digital exhibit of the Albert H. Small Declaration of Independence Collection at the University of Virginia using a Microsoft Surface installation. Design elements included 360° metadata buttons and sidebars for describing content of digital surrogates.

Documents Compass: Design Researcher for *People of the Founding Era*, 2008 - 2009

Designed an open source, relational database to catalog and analyze biographical and prosopographical information on all Americans born between 1713 and 1815, their children and grandchildren. Contributed ideas and text to the grant proposal for Phase I (awarded \$327,000 dollars by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation). Helped create XML tagging structure for source materials, tagged source materials in XML, and provided technical support and training to staff of Documents Compass.

Dolley Madison Digital Edition: Database Designer, Summer 2007 and 2008

Designed and built the Dolley Madison Social Events Database to organize and analyze all the invitations sent or received by Dolley Madison during her widowhood years in Washington D.C., and in the process, trace out the social network of Washington elite in the 1830s and 1840s. Worked in consultation with the Rotunda division of the University of Virginia Press, the Virginia Center for Digital History, and Montpelier.

Papers of James Madison: Research Assistant, Summer 2006

Decoded dispatches written by John Armstrong, American Minister Plenipotentiary to France (original encryption sheets had been lost). Transcribed, translated, and edited consular documents written by the Spanish Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States and Spanish officials in Madrid and the Floridas.

Archives of the New York Philharmonic: Metcalf Fellow, Summer 2002

Planned and created bibliographical index of persons mentioned in the diary of Ureli Corelli Hill, founder of the New York Philharmonic. Edited unpublished mid-nineteenth century music manuscripts for performance by musicians of the New York Philharmonic.

Languages

Fluent in Spanish, proficient in French.

References

Peter S. Onuf, Thomas Jefferson Foundation Professor of History, University of Virginia.

J.C.A. Stagg, Professor, Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia and Editor in Chief, *The Papers of James Madison*.

Bethany Nowviskie, Director of Digital Research & Scholarship at the University of Virginia Library and Associate Director of the Scholarly Communication Institute.

Presentation Abstract



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Republicans of Letters: The Early American Foreign Service Database

On August 6, 1794, John Jay decided he was out of time. Jay, America's envoy extraordinary to the Court of St. James, had been in London for two months waiting on a letter from his counterpart in the West Indies, Nathaniel Cabot Higginson. Higginson had left Philadelphia in May, headed for Barbados as a special diplomatic agent and instructed to report directly to Jay on the state of American ships and goods seized by the British navy and privateers under the Secret Orders in Council of November 6, 1793. Jay's mission was to keep these seizures (as well as boundary disputes with Canada) from escalating into a war, but without accurate information on American losses, he could not begin to negotiate for compensation from the British government. Acquiring and transmitting this information became a principal goal of the newly created U.S. State Department, but only the Washington Administration made such a concerted effort. Under the Continental Congress, Articles of Confederation and later Presidential administrations, America's diplomats, consuls, and special agents had to collect their own information through whatever personal or professional connections they possessed when they were appointed or could cultivate upon assuming their posts. To understand how the Foreign Service operated in its early years (1775-1825) it is necessary to reconstruct all these correspondence networks in detail, whether governmental, commercial, or personal in nature.

The breadth and depth of this project requires a relational database designed to put the fruits of archival research in dialog with each other to highlight the multivalent connections that became the American Foreign Service. In order to understand how the Foreign Service developed and expanded, I have designed, built, and am currently refining such a database and software package for this purpose. *The Early American Foreign Service Database (EAFSD)* holds biographical data about the historical actors as well as information about assignments, locations, and organizations. It supports a query structure that can plot changes over time (previous

experience of hires, location of missions, etc.) and uncover patronage and family networks within the Foreign Service and the networks of correspondence the diplomats and consuls created as they wrote to friends, family, business partners, and each other. The database is equipped with an expanding set of visualization tools to explore and analyze the data in subsets and in the aggregate using spatial, temporal, and network analysis. Currently the data can be accessed by browsing or a keyword search. There is also an interactive map, showing the location of all foreign service postings and a visualization of the data using Moritz Stefaner's Relation Browser.

As my work on the EAFSD continues, I will be adding more data from my archival research and enhancing the search capabilities with Solr indexing and faceted browsing. I plan to incorporate a series of geo-referenced maps showing the dispersion of postings over time, replace the Relation Browser with a data visualization program I am currently writing, and visually trace the correspondence networks so crucial to the day-to-day operations of the Foreign Service. These networks could then be viewed individually or layered for comparison. For example, John Jay's correspondence network during his negotiations in London resembles a fan spreading across the eastern half of North America, from Quebec to Barbados and as far west as Detroit. These lines would all converge on Philadelphia (the contemporary capital and home to the State Department) and then form a thick cord that stretched to London, representing the letters forwarded to Jay by the Secretary of State. Alternatively, one could stack the correspondence networks of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson while all three men lived in Paris following the American Revolution to compare their sources of information and how they each contributed to the collective knowledge of the mission.

Given the widespread applications for network and prosopographical analysis, the code for the EAFSD is being released under the General Public License 3.0 as Project Quincy. Project Quincy is a Ruby on Rails application with a MySQL database and will allow other scholars to map networks of kinship, patronage, and correspondence, the growth (or decay) of organizations, and early institutional development from a wide range of source types, adding to our collective

knowledge of the past and present. The heart of Project Quincy is its data model, a set of six interconnecting modules, each to track a different type of information or network: biography (profession, personal relationships, and residences), organizations (membership and organization history), correspondence (letters), assignments (connecting a person, a job, and a place for a specific period of time), locations, and a validation/citation module to track the network of scholarly research required to populate the database.

As I worked on the data model for Project Quincy (and the EAFSD), I found that traditional technical diagrams would not allow me to effectively communicate the purpose and value of my project to other historians. This led me to create DAVILA, an interactive, open source relational database schema visualization and annotation tool. It is written in the visualization language Processing using the `toxiclibs` physics library, and like Project Quincy, is released under the GPLv3. With DAVILA the user fills out a CSV file to label her or his diagram with basic information about the program (project name, URL, developer names) and choose a copyright license for the documentation. The user can then group the database's entities into modules, color code those modules, indicate which entity is central to each module, and provide annotation text for every entity in the database. Once DAVILA is running, users can click and drag the entities into different positions, expand an individual module for more information, or hide the non-central entities in a module to focus on another part of the schema. Pressing the space bar saves a snapshot of the window as a time-stamped, vector-scaled PDF file.

These projects have been developed within the contemporary network of the digital humanities community at the University of Virginia, in particular, during my Digital Humanities Fellowship at the University of Virginia Library (Scholars' Lab), as a NINES Graduate Fellow, and while employed on the *Dolley Madison Digital Edition* and *People of the Founding Era: A Prosopographical Approach*. I hope to give back to the community by releasing carefully documented, open source tools that help other scholars solve their own research questions.