

CHASS Newsletter June 2015

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From the Executive Director's Desk

This year, for the first time, the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations is holding its international conference [DH2015](#) in Australia. Hosted by the University of Western Sydney, the conference brings together representatives from around the world to discuss, debate and explore the digital future of the humanities.

As you might expect, the conference contains a variety of sessions; the one I participated in was concerned one is building communities and networks.

Perhaps it was the support for the conference provided by the State Library of New South Wales; maybe it was just a wave of nostalgia, but the idea of building communities brought back some old memories.

When I was young, my family lived in New York City; to earn spending money, I had an after-school job at the New York Public Library. Every day, I rode the subway to Forty-Second Street. Running up the stairs, I would give a welcome nod to the two stone lions that guard the entrance. They are named Patience and Fortitude (necessary virtues for a career in academia).

The library was dedicated to research; the collections were accessible only to approved scholars. In those days, the library placed more emphasis on the conservation of knowledge than on its creation or dissemination.

Let's now fast-forward to the present. The Library has a new mission. The digital revolution has transformed its purpose. Instead of conserving knowledge, it is now creating knowledge and making it available to everyone.

Take the "What's on the Menu" project, for example. Over the years, the library assembled a collection of menus from around the world.

For example, in 1900, the Mayor of Adelaide held a farewell lunch for South Australian troops departing for the Boer War. Do you want to know what he served? No problem, the library has the menu. (By the way, the meal contained lots of meat.)

Want to know what was eaten at Buckingham Palace's Derby Day lunch in 1906? The library has the menu for that too—and 40,000 others.

Social historians, movie directors, novelists, chefs and foodies were all interested in using this

impossible to digitise them using optical character recognition.

The library decided to crowd-source. They asked users to transcribe the analogue menus into text that could then be catalogued and searched. The result is a database of dishes linked to recipes and also to literature, photos, film, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr and much more. The analogue menus have been transformed into a flexible and useful node on the web.

When you click on a menu item, say “cockles”, you can find out not only who served them through the years, but also how they were prepared at different times and in different places, photos of what they looked like, films of how to prepare them, shopping lists of ingredients and lists of the fictional (and real) characters that ate them.

Movie directors and novelists use the collection to lend veracity to their productions. Social historians use the collection to study the cost, availability and snob appeal of foods in different eras. Chefs use them to design new dishes and revive old ones. Clearly, the library has used digital technology to enhance the value of its collection, but it has done more than that. It has generated an entire field of scholarship and practice, a field that transcends the distinction between analogue and digital.

At the outset of the automobile era, motorcars were called horseless carriages. They were defined in relation to the past. The horseless carriage eventually gave way to the car. It is now time for the same thing to happen to the digital humanities. We will know that the digital humanities have matured when we take for granted that the digital is woven into everything. There will no longer need to be a distinction between the digital and non-digital; there will just be the humanities.

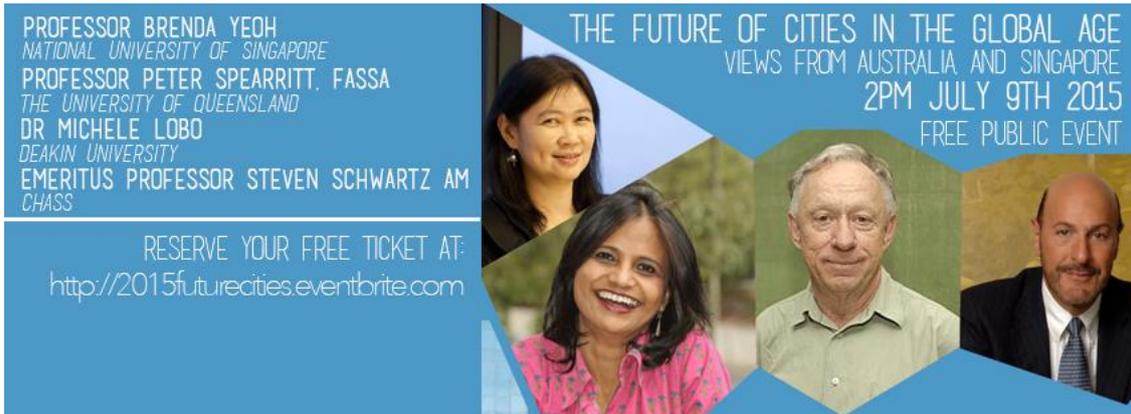
The digital humanities will be one of the themes to be explored in the CHASS Forum 2015, which will be held at Melbourne University on 15 and 16 October. Early bird registration will open in early July, just go to www.chass.org.au and make sure you book your place.

Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM, FASSA



Update on nominations received for the 2015 CHASS Australia Prizes

We are pleased to announce that we have received 204 nominations in total across the four categories - *Book* (non-fiction), *Distinctive Work*, *Future Leader*, and *Student*. Thank you to all those who nominated their colleagues and friends, and even themselves. The members of the jury are hard at work and we will announce the shortlists for all four categories in September. Winners will be announced at the 2015 CHASS Australia Prizes Lunch on 15 October. Watch this space for updates.



The Future of Cities in the Global Age: Views from Australia and Singapore, 9 July, Geelong

This roundtable discussion is being organised by CHASS in association with the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA), Deakin University, and the Hawke Research Institute, University of South Australia.

This is a free public event and all are welcome to attend. Registrations are required. Limited seats are available, please book early to avoid disappointment.

Location: Western Beach Room (AD/Sally Walker Building, Level 6, Room 104), Deakin University's Waterfront Campus, 1 Gheringhap Street, Geelong.

Speakers: Professor Brenda Yeoh (National University of Singapore), Dr Michele Lobo (Deakin University), Professor Peter Spearritt FASSA (The University of Queensland).

The discussion will be chaired by Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM, FASSA.

For further details and to register, please [click here](http://2015futurecities.eventbrite.com).

[Register now](http://2015futurecities.eventbrite.com)

Renew your annual CHASS membership

Membership renewal invoices have been sent to all current members via email. If your organisation's staff or contact details have changed, please let us know.

Membership subscriptions can be paid via EFT, cheque or credit card (Visa and MasterCard only, merchant fee applies).

CHASS members have access to various services such as the daily media monitoring update, event listings on our website and newsletter, profiling opportunities in our newsletter, and social media promotion. This year, members will also be able to take advantage of additional discounts to attend the 2015 CHASS National Forum, which will take place in Melbourne on 15 and 16 October.

So be sure to renew your membership and continue to remain part of an essential network for

communication and collaboration across the diverse disciplines and institutions operating in the HASS sector.

[Why be a CHASS member?](#)

Sector and Member Events

[ANZCA 2015: Rethinking Communication, Space and Identity](#), 8 – 10 July, Queenstown, Aotearoa New Zealand

Public Lecture: [An Evening with Professor Kevin Hart and his Poetry](#), University of Queensland, 9 July, Brisbane

[Drama Australia and Drama New Zealand's joint International Conference 2015](#) Game Changer – Innovating Education through Creativity and Drama Practice, 10 – 12 July, Sydney

Performance: [Nancy Weir Centenary Celebration](#), 13 July, Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University

[NTEU National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Forum](#) *Holding our Ground*, 16 – 17 July 2015, Dixon's Creek, Victoria

Webinar: [The Impact of the Arts in Regional Australia](#), 17 July, Regional Arts Australia & Deakin University

[The Art of Pain](#) exhibition, an expert conversation and panel discussions, 20 – 30 July, ANAT, Adelaide

Free public lecture: [Culture & War: The ANZAC Centenary Lectures](#), 22 July, University of Melbourne

Submission of abstracts closing 24 July: [2015 Australia New Zealand Society for Ecological Economics \(ANZSEE\) Conference](#) *Thriving Through Transformation: Local to Global Sustainability*, 19-23 October, University of New England

[Yapaneyepuk Walking Together to Make a Difference](#), An Indigenous Education Symposium, 27 – 29 July, Melbourne

Submission of papers closing 31 July: [2015 TASA Conference](#) *Neoliberalism and contemporary challenges for the Asia-Pacific*, 23 – 26 November, Cairns

Call for texts closing 31 July: [20th Australasian Association of Writing Programs Annual Conference](#) *Writing the ghost train | Rewriting, remaking, rediscovering*, 29 November – 1 December, Swinburne University of Technology

Registrations open for free public event: [Big Ideas Festival](#), 25 August, University of Wollongong

[2015 Australian Regional Development Conference](#) *Redefining the Future of Regional Australia*, 26 – 27 August, Albury

[Regional Studies Association Inaugural Australasian Conference](#) *Rethinking the Region & Regionalism in Australasia: Challenges & Opportunities for the 21st Century*, 31 August – 2 September, RMIT University

Registrations open: [ASME XXth National Conference](#) *Music: Educating for Life*, 30 September – 2 October, Adelaide

[2015 JERAA Conference](#) *Dangerous Journalism*, Charles Sturt University, 30 November – 2 December, Bathurst

Ongoing Exhibition: [Undiscovered Photographic Works By Michael Cook](#), The Australian National Maritime Museum

[WAAPA's 2015 Performance Program](#), Edith Cowan University

Note: While we take due care to list correct information about events listed here, all listings are subject to change and we advise that you reconfirm details before making bookings. Please like our Facebook page for more updates on available grants and sector events.

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