

Women Writers in Review - modeling the reception of pre-XX-century works by women writers

Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight
Visiting Scholar
Digital Scholarship Group
Northeastern University
18 August 2019 | CC BY 4.0

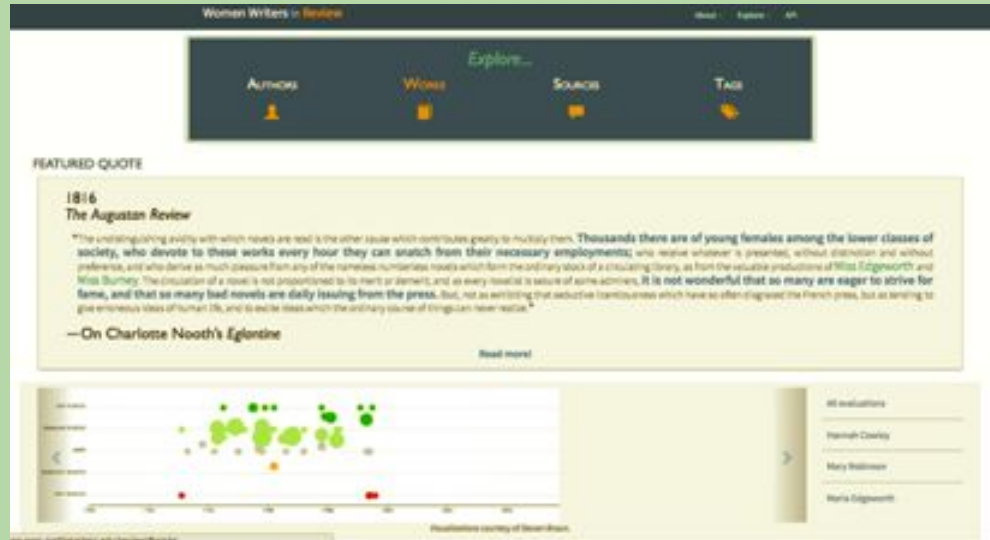


The Women Writers Project at Northeastern University - initiatives

- Women Writers Online (WWO): 390 texts written, translated by, or attributed to women
- *Women Writers in Review (WWiR)*: 690 texts responding to works written or translated by women



Women Writers in Review and the Cultures of Reception



Cultures of Reception

ART. 25.—*Leonora*; by Miss Edgeworth. 8vo. 2 Vols. Johnson. 1806.

THE professors of modern philosophy have been already hunted down by moral writers with such vigour that we trust very few of the race remain; but while a single animal of this description exists, the efforts towards a complete extermination must not be relaxed:—there is now less glory in the enterprize, but the attempt is in itself always meritorious.

This novel is written in a series of letters. Leonora is a virtuous woman, and attributing the reports which she hears of Olivia's conduct to the mischievous spirit of scandal and to the malignity of envy, invites her to her house as an asylum from the persecutions of the malicious. Olivia is a professor of the modern philosophy, and has no other conceptions of the rules of right and wrong, than of rules for the game of whist, which may be very useful in the game of life, but which may be broken through or complied with in any particular emergency. She comes ripe from France, a determined foe to all those restraints which confine *tide-less blooded females* within



The critical review of *Leonora* (1806), by Maria Edgeworth

Source: HathiTrust

<http://hdl.handle.net/2027/njp.32101076402963>

Publication challenges and goals

WOMEN AS WRITERS AND READERS

Other tags in the “Theme” category

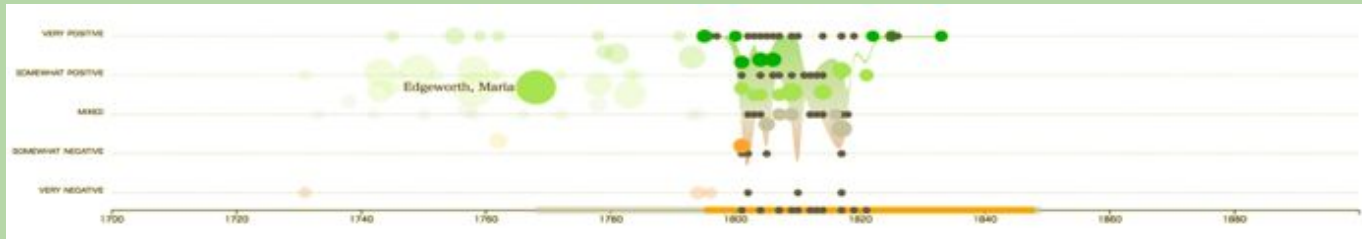
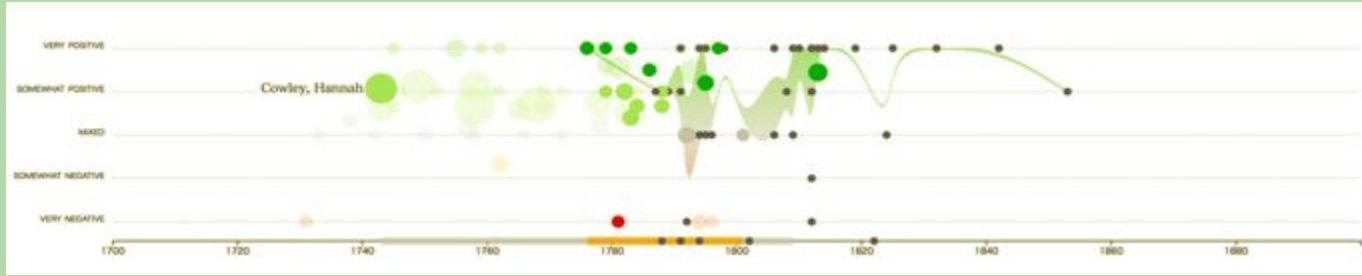


VERY NEGATIVE

Other tags in the “Reception” category



Visualizing evaluations over time



Prototype visualizations: created by Steven Braun,
Digital Scholarship Group, Northeastern University Libraries

Wikidata-fying the Culture of Reception of Women Writers in Review

Proposal: “review of”:

- literary criticism (Q58854) [review of] pre-XX-c women's written work (Q47461344)
- review score (P444) [review of] literary criticism (Q58854)
- review of (P6977) [review of a review]



AUTHOR: Mary (Darby) Robinson

WRITTEN WORK: Robinson, Mary (Darby). *The Natural Daughter*. London, England: Longman, T. N.; Rees, O., 1799.

LITERARY CRITICISM: Unknown. "Art. 23. The Natural Daughter; with Portraits of the Leaden-Head Family. A Novel. By Mrs. Robinson. In Two Volumes. 12mo. 8s. Longman and Rees. 1800." *The British Critic*. London, England: 1800-09.

REVIEW SCORE:

- Mixed
- Very negative
- Somewhat negative
- Very positive
- Somewhat positive
- Neutral or no evaluation



Where do we go from here?

Discussions at Wikidata:

- https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Property_proposal/Creative_work#review_of
- https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata_talk:WikiProject_Books#Scored_book_reviews



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Steps_by_steps_\(25046092122\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Steps_by_steps_(25046092122).jpg)
torne (where's my lens cap?) [CC BY 2.0]



Attribution

Much of this slidedeck is drawn from an earlier presentation of it. Permission for its reuse was provided by Northeastern University.

- Ashley M. Clark, Sarah Connell, (August 1, 2016), *META(dATA)mORPHOSIS*, XML In, Web Out: International Symposium on sub rosa XML



Appendices

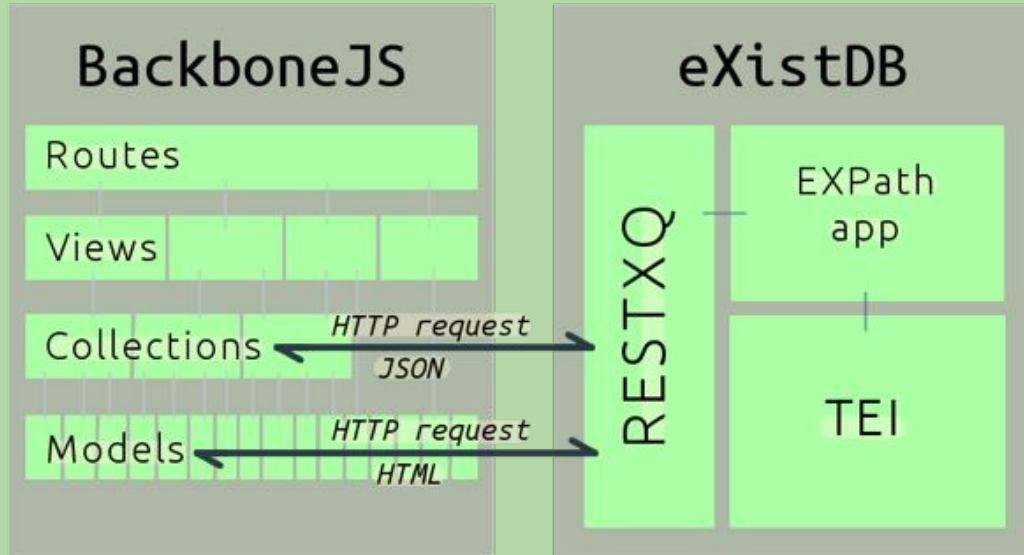


Links

- **Women Writers in Review:**
 - About <https://wwp.northeastern.edu/review/about>
 - API <https://wwp.northeastern.edu/review/api>
 - Authors <https://wwp.northeastern.edu/review/authors>
 - Sources <https://wwp.northeastern.edu/review/sources>
 - Tags <https://wwp.northeastern.edu/review/tags>
 - Terminology <https://wwp.northeastern.edu/review/about/terms>
 - Works <https://wwp.northeastern.edu/review/works>
- **CWRC:** <http://sparql.cwrc.ca/ontology/cwrc.html>
- **Contemporary Literary Criticism Online:**
<https://www.gale.com/c/contemporary-literary-criticism-online>



WWiR: Components



WWiR: Transcription interface

Transcription

The complete transcription of the reception item or review.

Transcription

`<head>` `<p>` `<lg>` `<l>`

`<italic>` `<persName>` `<placeName>` `<quote>` `<title>`

```
<head>Art. 26.—<italic><title>Leonora</title>; by <persName>Miss Edgeworth</persName>. Bvo. 2 Vols.</italic> Johnson. 1806.</head>
<p>The professors of modern philosophy have been already hunted down by moral writers with such vigour that we trust very few of the race remain; but while a single animal of this description exists, the efforts towards a complete extermination must not be relaxed:—there is now less glory in the enterprize, but the attempt is in itself always meritorious.</p>
<p>This novel is written in a series of letters. <persName>Leonora</persName> is a virtuous woman, and attributing the reports which she hears of <persName>Olivia's</persName> conduct to the mischievous spirit of scandal and to the malignity of envy, invites her to her house as an asylum from the persecutions of the malicious. <persName>Olivia</persName> is a professor of the modern philosophy, and has no other conceptions of the rules of right and wrong, that of rules for the game of whist, which may be very useful in the game of life, but which may be broken through or complied with in any particular emergence. She comes ripe from
```

The transcription of the reception item's content.

Excerpt or partial transcription?

- Check if the transcription is an excerpt from a longer reception item

Quotations from other texts?

- Check if the transcription contains quotes from works other than the primary text



WWiR: Transcription architecture

- Designed to get encoders of all skill levels working with little training
- CouchDB backend
 - NoSQL, JSON-based database
 - Accessible via web interface or HTTP request
- BackboneJS frontend
 - Connected to CouchDB API
 - Contains an index of records in the Couch database
 - Allows users to edit and update JSON records



Others are doing similar work

The CWRC Ontology Specification 0.99.7



THE CANADIAN WRITING RESEARCH COLLABORATORY

CWRC / CSÉC

LE COLLABORATOIRE SCIENTIFIQUE DES ÉCRITS DU CANADA

The CWRC Ontology is the ontology of the Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory.



Women Writers Online

The screenshot displays the 'Women Writers Online' search interface. On the left, there is a search bar with a search button and an 'Advanced...' link. Below the search bar is a 'Filter' section with categories: Genre (non-fiction [175], verse [141], drama [67], fiction [43], (3), prose [2]), and Date (16th c. [29], 17th c. [164], 18th c. [102], 19th c. [86]). On the right, the search results are listed under the heading 'Results: 381 texts'. The results include:

- [unknown] — The Bridling, Saddling, and Riding of a Rich Churl in Hampshire, 1595
- [unknown] — The Wonderful Discoverie of the Witchcrafts of Margaret and Phillip Flower, 1619
- [unknown] — Swetnam, the Woman-Hater, Arraigned by Women, 1620
- [unknown] — Eliza's Babes, 1652
- [unknown] — The Female Wits, 1704
- [unknown] — The Fortunate Transport, 1750
- [unknown] — England's Tears: A Poem, 1774
- [unknown] — Changing Scenes, 1825
- [unknown] — Memoir of Mrs. Chloe Spear, 1832
- Adams, Hannah — A Summary History of New-England, 1799
- Adams, Hannah — The History of the Jews, 1812



Thank You

R. Stephenson-Goodknight (2019), *Women Writers in Review - modeling the reception of pre-XX-century works by women writers*, 2019 LD4 Conference on Linked Data in Libraries. CC BY 4.0

Contact:

- Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight
- Amanda Rust

Rosiestep.wiki@gmail.com

A.Rust@northeastern.edu

