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KELVIN SMITH LIBRARY, O'NEILL READING ROOM

SpecLab's Experiment: The Humanist, the Library, and the Digital Future of Cultural Materials and their Interpretation

What is the role of the humanist in the current migration of cultural materials into electronic form? To what extent should humanistic concepts help shape the way cultural materials are preserved, accessed, and used in this and the next generation? What might humanities' based tools bring to the tasks and challenges faced by archivists, cataloguers, librarians, and curators? Is the interpretation of humanistic material separate from its preservation and access? This talk draws on experiences with SpecLab (and to a lesser degree, at UCLA) to examine some of the ways digital humanities projects have worked in collaboration with library personnel to model knowledge and interpretation in electronic environments and to pose some questions about the way such exchanges should and can be shaped to serve common interests.

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