

EDITING HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS IN THE ELECTRONIC ERA: INTERPRETING MARGARET SANGER

This seminar in historical editing is designed to introduce students to the theories, practices and problems in editing, digitizing, and publishing historical documents. Students will apply lessons from readings in the development of an edited collection drawn from the Margaret Sanger papers. Students will be organized into groups and create mini-digital editions of a selection of Sanger papers, complete with all prefatory material, transcriptions, annotation, key word list/index/ search methods and other non-textual elements.

Assignments

Weekly: Required Readings

Periodically: Short selections, transcription and markup assignments.

Project: Selection, transcription, encoding, annotation for a mini version of a Sanger Papers digital edition.

Technology

Make sure that your laptop is registered on the NYU wireless network by going to <http://www.nyu.edu/its/wireless/configure/nyu.html>.

Each student should get a Google Documents account and familiarize himself/herself with [Google Documents](#).

Week 1 (Sept. 7)

1. Introduction to Documentary Editing

2. Introduction to the Margaret Sanger Papers

Required Reading:

- Kline & Perdue, *Guide to Documentary Editing* "Introduction"
 - Stevens, chap. 1
 - [Metterling List](#)
 - Lester Cappon, "A Rationale for Historical Editing: Past and Present" [William and Mary Quarterly](#) 3rd ser., 23 (1966): 56-75.
 - Daniel I. Cohen & Roy Rosenzweig, *Digital History* (2006), 81-95 "[Becoming Digital](#)," chap. 3
 - Richard Cox, "[Messrs. Washington, Jefferson, and Gates: Quarreling About the Preservation of the Documentary Heritage of the United States](#)," *First Monday* (1997)]
 - Peter Shillingsburg, "[The Dank Cellar of Electronic Texts](#)," *Literary and Linguistic Computing*//, 24:1 (April 2009), 19-25.
 - C.M. Sperburg-McQueen, "[How to Teach Your Edition How to Swim](#)," *Literary and Linguistic Computing*, 24:1 (January 2009): 27-39]
 - Robert Rosenberg, "[Electronic Textual Editing: Documentary Editing](#)," in TEI: Text Encoding Initiative
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Week 2 (Sept. 14)

1. Defining and Organizing Digital Editions

2. Search for Documents

3. Selection Principles

Required Reading:

- Kline & Perdue, *Guide to Documentary Editing*, chaps 1 & 2
- John Y. Simon, "[The Canons of Selection](#)," *Documentary Editing* 6:4 (December 1984): 8-12.
- Kate Culkin, "[Organization, Outreach, and Optimism: Getting a Project Up to Full Speed](#)," *Documentary Editing* 26:1 (Spring 2004): 1-8
- Alan Morrison, et al., *Creating and Documenting Electronic Texts* (2000), chap. 2.1 "[What is Document Analysis?](#)"
- Daniel I. Cohen & Roy Rosenzweig, *Digital History* (2006), 81-95 "[Becoming Digital](#)," chap. 3
- [MSPP Selection Guidelines](#)

On Monday (Sept. 20), each student will submit a list of documents he or she thinks should be included in their group's mini-edition AND a 1-2 page essay on the criteria for selection, and each group will submit a final list.

Week 3 (Sept. 22) — Principles of Transcription

We will also discuss student's selection criteria

Required Reading:

- Kline & Perdue, *Guide to Documentary Editing*, chaps. 3-6
 - Stevens, chaps. 3-5
 - Claus Huitfeldt, and C.M. Sperburg-McQueen, "[What is Transcription?](#)" *Literary and Linguistic Computing*, 23:3 (Sept. 2008): 295-310.
 - Charles Cullen, "[Authentication of Digital Objects: Lessons from a Historian's Research](#)," *Authenticity in a Digital Environment* (May 2000), 1-7
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Week 4 (Sept. 28) — No class - Work on Transcriptions

Week 5 (Oct. 5) — Varieties of Editions

Required Reading:

Students will examine several other digital editions and assess them for accuracy, transparency, effectiveness. Be prepared to comment on these sites. Among the sites you may look at are:

[Any of the sites on Rotunda](#)

You may register for a free trial on this site which will give you about a month's access.

- [Samuel Pepys Diaries](#)
- [Adams Family Papers](#)
- [Thomas Edison Papers Digital Edition](#)

Students should upload their transcribed documents into Google Documents in folder marked [Student](#).

Week 6 (Oct. 12) — Document Control

Required Reading:

- Kline & Perdue, *Guide to Documentary Editing*, chap. 2, nos. II-III
 - Cathy Moran Hajo, "[Computerizing Control Over Authority Names at the Margaret Sanger Papers.](#)" *Documentary Editing* 13 (June 1991): 35-39.
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Week 7 (Oct. 19) — TEI/Encoding and Viewing Marked Up Documents

OXYGEN and other programs

Required Reading:

- Alan Morrison, et al., "Creating and Documenting Electronic Texts," (2000), [chap 4.1 "What is Markup?"](#)
 - Edward Vanhoutte and Ron Van den Branden, "[Describing, Transcribing, Encoding, and Editing Modern Correspondence Material: a Textbase Approach.](#)" *Literary and Linguistic Computing* 24:1 (April 2009): 77, 98.
 - "[A Gentle Introduction to XML.](#)" Text Encoding Initiative (TEI)
 - M. J. Driscoll, "[Electronic Textual Editing: Levels of Transcription.](#)" TEI: Text Encoding Initiative
 - Phill Berrie, Paul Eggert, Chris Tiffin, and Graham Barwell, "[Electronic Textual Editing: Authenticating Electronic Editions.](#)" TEI: Text Encoding Initiative
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Week 8 (Oct. 26) — Encoding Workshop

Practice encoding in class

Week 9 (Nov. 2) — No Class - Work on Encoding

Week 10 (Nov. 9) — Annotation: Principle and Practice

Required Reading:

- Kline & Perdue, *Guide to Documentary Editing*, chap. 7
- Stevens, chaps. 6 and 7
- Charles Cullen, "[Principles of Annotation in Editing Historical Documents:](#) or, How to Avoid Breaking the Butterfly on the Wheel of Scholarship," in Vogt and Jones, *Literary and Historical Editing*, pp. 81-95.
- Robert Hudspeth, "[Margaret Fuller's Silences.](#)" *Documentary Editing* 20:1 (March 1998): 8-12
- Carolyn De Swarte Gifford, "[What About the Twenty-Year Gap?](#)" *Documentary Editing* (March 1998): 18-20.

Annotation Guide

Annotation programs** – A-Anotate, Google Documents, etc.

Week 11 (Nov. 16) - Discussion of Annotation Points

Each group will select one of its documents with annotation points marked and description of annotation to be provided.

Week 12 (Nov. 23) - No Class - Work on Annotation

Week 13 (Dec. 7) - Front and Back Matter & Publishing the Edition

Required Reading:

- Kline & Perdue, *Guide to Documentary Editing*, chap. 8, no. I-VIII
 - Stevens, chaps. 8-9
 - Andre de Tienne, "[Indexing: Philosophy of.](#)" *Documentary Editing* 28 (Fall 2006): 133-143
 - Kevin Kiernan, "[Electronic Textual Editing: Digital Facsimiles in Editing.](#)" TEI: Text Encoding Initiative
 - Penelope Kaiserlian, "[Rotunda: A University Press Starts a Digital Imprint](#)"
 - Dan Cohen, "[Idols of Scholarly Publishing.](#)" *On Line humanities Scholarship: The Shape of Things to Come*. Jerome McGann, ed.
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Week 14 (Dec. 14) - The Future of Documentary Editing

Required Reading:

- Kline & Perdue, *Guide to Documentary Editing*, chap. 8, no. IX
- * Esther Katz, "[The Editor as Public Authority: Interpreting Margaret Sanger.](#)" *The Public Historian* 17:1 (Winter 1995): 41-50.
- Melody Miyamoto, "[Bringing Methods to the Madness: Editing Personal Writings for Public Wonderment.](#)" *Documentary Editing* 29 (2007): 21-31
- T. Thomas Tanselle, "[Electronic Textual Editing: Forward.](#)" TEI: Text Encoding Initiative
- Marc Rothenberg, "[Illuminating the Edison Papers.](#)" *Documentary Editing* 18:2 (June 1996): 29-31.