The Digital Arts Library in Collaboration with the Symposium on the Book Present

***TEXTUAL MACHINES: A SPRING SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBIT***

Friday and Saturday April 17-18, 2015

Main Library, 3rd floor, 320 S Jackson St

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

**Textual Machines Symposium**

*Textual Machines* is an international symposium exploring literary objects that produce texts through the material interaction with mechanical devices or procedures. We define “textual machines” as a perspective on literature and book objects where text is “a mechanical device for the production and consumption of verbal signs” (Espen J. Aarseth). From the symposium’s perspective, textual machines are not limited to a specific media or epoch, and include literary objects ranging from early modern movable books, to modern pop-up books, artist’s books, game books, concrete poetry, combinatory literature, electronic literature and interactive fictions. A distinctive feature of textual machines is that they invite readers to traverse text through the non-trivial manipulation of mechanistic devices or procedures: by navigating through hyperlinks, footnotes, marginalia or other semiotic cues, or by answering to configurational, exploratory or writing prompts.

Time: Friday April 17: 10:30 – 11:45 am & Saturday, April 18: 10 am - 6:30 pm.

Location: Graduate Reading Room, 3rd floor of the Main Library.

Organizers: Jonathan Baillehache, Miriam Jacobson, Luis Correa-Dìaz.

**Textual Machines Exhibit**

In parallel to the symposium, the Willson Center Digital Humanities Lab at the University of Georgia will host the *Textual Machines Exhibit*, showcasing holdings from the Hargrett rare Book & Manuscript Library and the Digital Arts Library, including early modern movable books, modern artist’s books, and electronic literature. Refreshment will be served at the exhibit opening on Friday April 17 at 10:00 am.

Time: Friday and Saturday, April 17-18, 10 am – 7 pm.

Location: Willson Center Digital Humanities Lab, 3rd floor of the Main Library, University of Georgia, 320 S Jackson St, Athens, GA.

Curators: Jonathan Baillehache, Anne DeVine, Miriam Jacobson.

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*The Textual Machines symposium and exhibit are made possible thanks to the generous support of the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute, the Department of Romance Languages, and the Main Library at the University of Georgia.*

**Friday April 17**

Willson Center Digital Humanities Lab, 3rd floor of the Main Library

**10 am -** Opening of the *Textual Machines Exhibit*, with refreshments.

**10:30 - 11:45 am:** Plenary Talk. *The Texture of Erasure in Two Book-Objects:*Tree of Codes*by Jonathan Safran Foer and*The Desert*by Jen Bervin*, Gwen Le Cor (University of Paris 8)

**Saturday April 18**

Graduate Reading Room, 3rd floor of the Main Library

**10 - 10:30 am**: Reception with refreshments.

**10:30 - 10:45 am**: Introduction.

* Opening words by Jonathan Baillehache (Department of Romance Languages, University of Georgia) and Miriam Jacobson (Department of English, University of Georgia)

**10:45 - 12:00** **am**: Keynote address.

* *The Disappearing Book: Media Innovation and the Future of Shared Attention,* Keynote Address by Janet Murray (School of Literature, Media, and Communication, Georgia Institute of Technology)

**12:00 - 1:30 pm:** lunch break. Participants and attendees will find many restaurants downtown, at a walking distance north of the conference location.

**1:30 pm - 2:30 pm:** Generative Literature. Chair: Jonathan Baillehache.

* *Pentametron and the Digital Vernacular*, Eric Rettberg (School of Literature, Media, and Communication, Georgia Institute of Technology)
* *Cyborgs, Algorithms and Common Archives : Procedural Poetry and Software Art in Latin America*, Osvaldo Cleger (School of Modern Languages, Georgia Institute of Technology)

**2:30 - 3:45 pm:** Plenary Talk.

* *Digital Literature in France,* Serge Bouchardon (University of Technology of Compiegne)

**4:00 - 5:00 pm:** Reading through Space**.**

* *Imaginative Effort: reassessing immersion and interactivity in digital fiction*, Daniela Côrtes Maduro (Center for Portuguese Literature, University of Coimbra).
* *Locating the Silent History in Theory, Practice, and Media*, Richard Gibson (Wheaton College).

**5:00 - 6:30 pm**: Collaborative texts. Chair: Miriam Jacobson.

* *Uprightdown.com: Textual Machine*, Ari Lieberman (Department of Comparative Literature, University of Georgia)
* *The Letters to X project*, Jessica Barness (School of Visual Communication and Design, Kent State University).
* *E-, Free, and Open: The Future of the Textbook in Not in Your Book bag*, Lauren Fancher (GALILEO Support Services and Affordable Learning Georgia)