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digital writing research

technologies, methodologies, and ethical issues

edited by Heidi McKee and Danielle Nicole DeVoss
now available from Hampton Press (1-57273-705-0)

"The key epistemological breakthrough here: doing digital writing research is not merely a matter of shipping old methods and methodologies to a new research locale—for instance, the Internet, the World Wide Web, synchronous chat spaces, virtual classrooms. Rather, **technologically mediated research locales demand changes in method and methodology...** Digital Writing Research is the perfect title for a work that celebrates the achievement of a well-established field while simultaneously pushing that field into a new identity. This volume makes a strong case for the distinctive and important nature of computers and writing research." (James Porter, Michigan State University)



All royalties from book sales will be donated to the Computers & Writing/Graduate Research Network Travel Grant award funds.

OVERVIEW

Computerized writing technologies impact how and what we write, the ways in which we teach and learn writing, and, certainly, computers and digital spaces affect our research approaches. *Digital Writing Research* focuses on how writing technologies, specifically digital technologies, affect our research—shaping the questions we ask; the sites we study; the methodologies we use (or could use); the ethical issues we face; the conclusions we draw; and, thus, the actions we take as scholars, researchers, and teachers.

The chapters in this collection focus on articulating how research practices have evolved—and will continue to evolve—with changing writing technologies. The chapters provide experienced researchers with a means to reflect upon various aspects of their research and offer researchers new to composition studies or new to computers and writing research an introduction to possible approaches and related methodological and ethical issues.

FOCUS

Some questions authors consider include, but are not limited to:

- How have researchers adapted methodologies for digital writing research? For example, how might a researcher conduct an ethnography in an online community? What approaches are available for the coding of digital text?
- What methods are being used by researchers studying sign systems beyond the textual? What research is being conducted on visuals? What methods are being used by compositionists for studying multimedia texts?
- What constitutes appropriate human subject research in online environments? When is consent needed, especially when working in diverse cultural and technological forums? What new issues related to person-based research does writing in networked spaces create?
- How are computerized technologies, particularly global technologies, raising new (or remediating old) ethical issues related to privacy, individual rights, and representation?
- How have electronic journals and other methods of publishing writing research influenced our research directions and the distribution of research findings?

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Part Four: Researching Digital Texts and Multimodal Spaces

Part Five: Researching the Research Process and Research Reports

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Discussion Leaders (DLs) lead the thematic roundtables and mentor WiPPs; this role is key to the RNF. We ask that Discussion Leaders are experienced, established researchers. Serving as a Discussion Leader provides a valuable service to the composition/rhetoric community. Discussion Leaders may serve at the morning session, afternoon session, or all day, and they are welcome to also participate as WiPPs.

Participants also include Editors of printed and online composition/rhetoric publications (journals, edited collections, and book series), who discuss publishing opportunities for completed works-in-progress in an open, roundtable format. We encourage Editors to bring copies of the publications they edit/publish and announcements for display at the RNF meeting. Editors are encouraged to serve as Discussion Leaders and may also participate as WiPPs.

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