

**Centre for Literary and Linguistic Computing**  
**School of Humanities and Social Science**  
**The University of Newcastle, Australia**

**\*\*Founded 1987\*\***

**Report for 2007**

**Members**

Mrs Alexis Antonia (PhD candidate and research assistant)  
Emeritus Professor John Burrows (Foundation Director)  
Ms Louisa Connors (PhD candidate)  
Professor Hugh Craig (Director)  
Dr Ellen Jordan (researcher)  
Mr Michael Ralston (software developer)  
Mr Russell Whipp (consultant software developer)

**Personnel**

Michael Ralston has replaced Russell Whipp as the Centre's software developer. Russell is available nevertheless as a consultant on the Intelligent Archive (IA) in particular for the next few months. Mrs Antonia, as the Centre's chief RA, managed periods of research assistance from Mrs Ruth Lunney, Mrs Elizabeth Lidbury and Ms Alison Carroll.

**Software Development**

The IA can now resolve ambiguous variant spellings by reference to a section of the British National Corpus and on-the-fly comparison of the local contexts of the various possible headwords. A new capability to return word counts by dramatic character and by rolling segment will be available in early 2008.

**Archives of Electronic Texts under active development**

(1) Early Modern English Drama and Poetry (3m words; Connors, Craig)

Two casual research assistants worked in the latter part of the year to bring older etexts into line with current requirements. The upgraded archive is now in use.

(2) Victorian Periodicals (1.75m words; Antonia, Jordan)

RIB grant money was used to employ two administrative assistants. With their help a good many texts were obtained from microfilm and keyboarded. Another twenty or so texts came from the library's rare book collection as photo images on a CD. Another group of texts were obtained by scanning from good print copy versions.

All relevant metadata for each text of the Centre's Victorian Periodical Collection (over 160 items) was entered into EndNote. This included details about the etext's provenance and the hard copy source, as well as Journal title, date, page and author information. Preparing similar lists for the texts of the Centre's other Corpora will be a task for 2008-9. These lists of available texts will eventually be made available to outside researchers via a web link.

Jordan's 2008 project on anonymous authorship groups in the *Christian Remembrancer* will be off to a flying start thanks to the etext transcriptions from the library's rare book copy.

### **Collaborations**

- The Antonia and Craig collaboration with Dr. Lesley Wallace of Curtin University resulted in a paper, "What's in a name - was John Curtin 'Vigilant'? Analysing style to determine authorship," which has been submitted to *History Australia*.
- The Antonia and Jordan collaboration with the US researcher Dr Eileen Curran on attribution problems in the Wellesley Index is almost complete, with a paper on the results in draft. This project was directly assisted by the availability of the administrative assistant to transcribe texts only available on microfilm.
- Burrows's collaboration with Anthony Hassall, lately retired from the Chair of English at James Cook University, has yielded its third article. It is listed as 2006 but did not appear until 2007 and has not previously been reported: See Burrows, John and Anthony Hassall, 'Sarah and Henry Fielding and the Authorship of *The History of Ophelia, Script and Print*, 30 (2006), 69-102.
- Burrows completed a collaborative project with Timothy Raylor of Carleton College, Minnesota US. See Burrows, 'A Computational Approach,' under Publications.
- Burrows is collaborating with Peter Anstey of the University of Otago in a study of medical manuscripts associated with the philosopher John Locke and the physician Thomas Sydenham. A first article has been submitted and another is in preparation.
- Craig is working with the University of Newcastle Priority Research Centre on Biostatistics and Medical Biomarker Discovery, on authorship and on entropy and statistical complexity. A paper on 'Shakespeare and Complexity' is in draft.
- Craig and Professor Arthur F. Kinney of the UMass Massachusetts Center for Renaissance Studies completed a draft of *Shakespeare, Computers and the Mysteries of Authorship*. A final manuscript is contracted with Cambridge University Press for delivery in May, 2008.

### **Academy of the Humanities**

Burrows was invited to chair a session on 'Future Directions' at the annual symposium of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, held in Brisbane in November 2007.

### **Training**

Craig led a week-long Masterclass on Advanced Textual Analysis at the Digital Summer Institute at the University of Victoria, Canada, in June. Participants included senior academics in French and English from the US and Canada, and Canadian PhD candidates and university Help Desk staff. The IA formed the basis for practical activities in the sessions. Craig gave a plenary lecture on 'Word types, word tokens, and the language of Shakespearean drama' at the Institute.

### **Visitors**

Dr Peter Garrard from the University of Southampton presented his work on the novels of Iris Murdoch and the effects of Alzheimer's in December.

### **Use of the Centre room**

The Centre was regularly used for meetings between one or two colleagues to discuss ongoing work and to plan future projects. In May 2007 the Director invited all members to a meeting where each person gave a short presentation of ongoing work. This opportunity to present ongoing research to colleagues and the ensuing discussion was felt to be invaluable.

### **Equipment**

A much needed colour printer was installed. Two external USB connection flash drive storage units were purchased to help the archiving of the Centre's etext collections. A high-end computer with 8 gb of RAM is now installed and can be used remotely for large jobs.

### ***Saturday Review Project***

Antonia and Jordan have identified one of the authors of a much-discussed group of articles in the *Saturday Review* attacking the fledgling Women's Movement. This project was assisted by electronic texts obtained from microfilm, via the School of Humanities and Social Science scanner which was upgraded with Centre funds. A paper on the finding is in draft.

### **Publications**

Burrows, John, 'All the way through: Testing for Authorship in Different Frequency Strata', *Literary and Linguistic Computing*, 22 (2007), 27-47.

Burrows, John, 'A Computational Approach to the Authorship of "Lady Katherine Howard's Voyage"', *English Manuscript Studies*, 13 (2007), 232-49.

### **Forthcoming**

Craig, Hugh. "'Speak, that I may see thee": mapping Shakespeare characters by their use of some very common words,' *Shakespeare Survey*, 61 (2008).

### **External Grants**

Craig was awarded an ARC Discovery Grant for 2008-10 for a study of "Individuation in the Plays of Shakespeare and his Peers, 1576-1642."