



Women Writers in Review - modeling the reception of pre-XX-century works by women writers

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The Women Writers Project at Northeastern University - initiatives

- Women Writers Online (WWO): 390 texts written, translated by, or attributed to women
- *Women Writers in Review (WWiR)*: 690 texts responding to works written or translated by women

Women Writers in Review and the Cultures of Reception

The screenshot shows a digital humanities website titled "Women Writers in Review". At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Home", "Explore", and "Help" links. Below this is a dark navigation menu with four buttons: "Articles" (with a person icon), "Works" (with a book icon), "Sources" (with a document icon), and "Tags" (with a tag icon). The word "Explore..." is written in green above the "Works" button.

Below the navigation menu is a "FEATURED QUOTE" section. The quote is dated "1816" and titled "The Augustan Review". The text of the quote reads: "The unrelenting avidity with which novels are read is the other cause which contributes greatly to multiply them. Thousands there are of young females among the lower classes of society, who devote to these works every hour they can snatch from their necessary employments; who receive whatever is presented, without distinction and without preference, and who derive as much pleasure from any of the nameless numberless novels which form the ordinary stock of a circulating library, as from the valuable productions of Miss Edgeworth and Miss Burney. The circulation of a novel is not proportioned to its merit or demerit, and as every reader is secure of some admirer, it is not wonderful that so many are eager to strive for fame, and that so many bad novels are daily issuing from the press. But, not as exciting that seductive temptations which have so often disgraced the French press, but as tending to give erroneous ideas of human life, and to excite ideas which the ordinary course of Christian life repels."
—On Charlotte Nooth's *Eglantine*

Below the quote is a "Read more" link.

At the bottom of the page is a visualization of the "Provenance" of the text. It features a horizontal timeline from 1800 to 1820. The timeline is populated with green dots of varying sizes, representing individual evaluations. To the right of the timeline is a vertical list of names: "All evaluations", "Frances Colley", "Mary Bolman", and "Maria Edgeworth".

Cultures of Reception

Art. 26.—*Leonora*; by Miss Edgeworth. 8vo. 2 Vols. Johnson.
1806.

THE professors of modern philosophy have been already hunted down by moral writers with such vigour that we trust very few of the race remain; but while a single animal of this description exists, the efforts towards a complete extermination must not be relaxed:—there is now less glory in the enterprize, but the attempt is in itself always meritorious.

This novel is written in a series of letters. *Leonora* is a virtuous woman, and attributing the reports which she hears of *Olivia's* conduct to the mischievous spirit of scandal and to the malignity of envy, invites her to her house as an asylum from the persecutions of the malicious. *Olivia* is a professor of the modern philosophy, and has no other conceptions of the rules of right and wrong, than of rules for the game of whist, which may be very useful in the game of life, but which may be broken through or complied with in any particular emergency. She comes ripe from France, a determined foe to all those restraints which confine tide-less blooded females within

The critical review of *Leonora* (1806), by Maria Edgeworth

SOURCE: HathiTrust

<http://hdl.handle.net/2027/njp.32101076402963>

Publication challenges and goals

WOMEN AS WRITERS AND READERS

Other tags in the “Theme” category

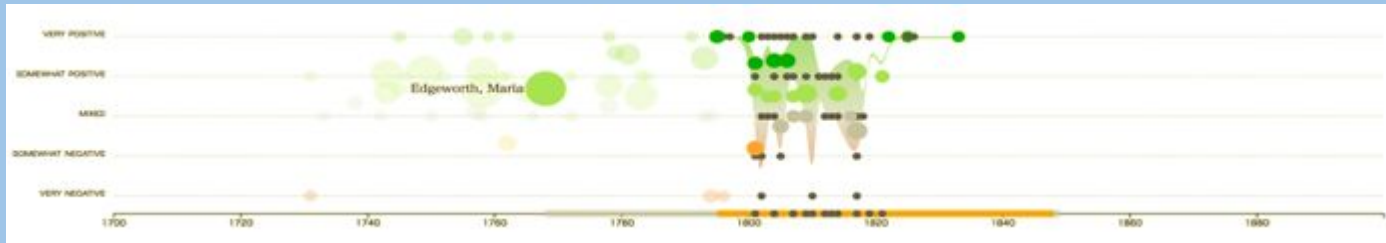
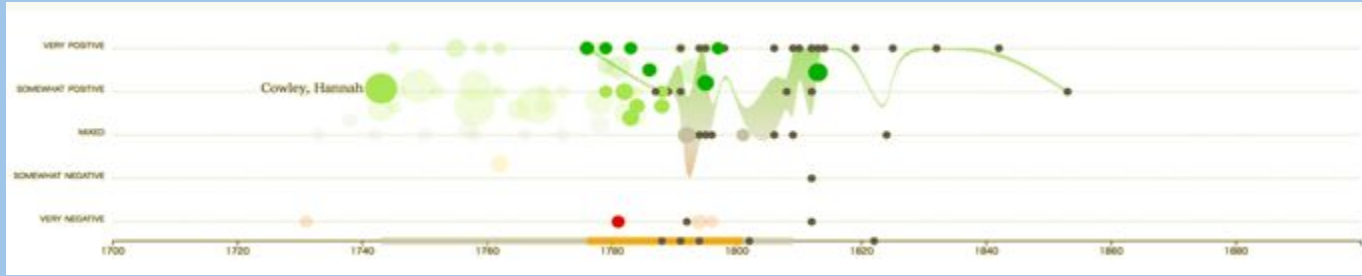
literary circulation place, space, or geography political topics gender identities education theories of genre and literature
nation or empire religious identities racial identities class or socioeconomic status moral impacts of literature
review culture slavery and abolition

VERY NEGATIVE

Other tags in the “Reception” category

mixed somewhat negative very positive somewhat positive neutral or no evaluation

Visualizing evaluations over time




PROTOTYPE VISUALIZATIONS: created by Steven Braun,
Digital Scholarship Group, Northeastern University Libraries

Wikidata-fying the Culture of Reception of Women Writers in Review

PROPOSAL: “review of”:

- literary criticism (Q58854) [review of] pre-XX-c women's written work (Q47461344)
- review score (P444) [review of] literary criticism (Q58854)

AUTHOR: Mary (Darby) Robinson



WRITTEN WORK: Robinson, Mary (Darby). *The Natural Daughter*. London, England: Longman, T. N.; Rees, O., 1799.

LITERARY CRITICISM: Unknown. "Art. 23. The Natural Daughter; with Portraits of the Leaden-Head Family. A Novel. By Mrs. Robinson. In Two Volumes. 12mo. 8s. Longman and Rees. 1800." *The British Critic*. London, England: 1800-09.

REVIEW SCORE:

- Mixed
- Very negative
- Somewhat negative
- Very positive
- Somewhat positive
- Neutral or no evaluation

Where do we go from here?

DISCUSSIONS AT WIKIDATA:

- https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Property_proposal/Creative_work#review_of
- https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata_talk:WikiProject_Books#Scored_book_reviews



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Steps_by_steps_\(25046092122\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Steps_by_steps_(25046092122).jpg)
torne (where's my lens cap?) [CC BY 2.0]

Attribution

Much of this slidedeck is drawn from an earlier presentation of it. Permission for its reuse was provided by Northeastern University.

- Ashley M. Clark, Sarah Connell, (August 1, 2016), *META(DATA)mORPHOSIS*, XML In, Web Out: International Symposium on sub rosa XML

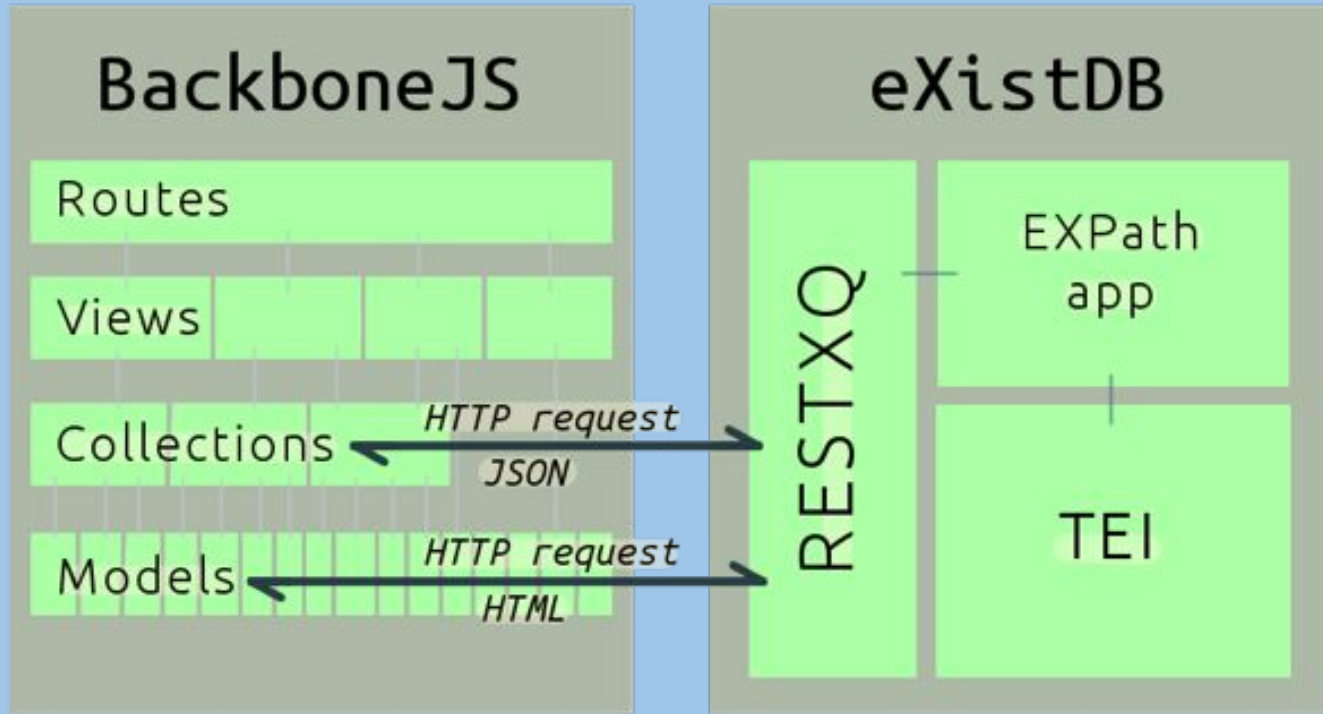
Appendices



Links

- **WOMEN WRITERS IN REVIEW:**
 - About <https://wwp.northeastern.edu/review/about>
 - API <https://wwp.northeastern.edu/review/api>
 - Authors <https://wwp.northeastern.edu/review/authors>
 - Sources <https://wwp.northeastern.edu/review/sources>
 - Tags <https://wwp.northeastern.edu/review/tags>
 - Terminology <https://wwp.northeastern.edu/review/about/terms>
 - Works <https://wwp.northeastern.edu/review/works>
- **CWRC:** <http://sparql.cwrc.ca/ontology/cwrc.html>
- **CONTEMPORARY LITERARY CRITICISM ONLINE:**
<https://www.gale.com/c/contemporary-literary-criticism-online>

WWiR: Components



WWiR: Transcription interface

Transcription

The complete transcription of the reception item or review.

Transcription

`<head>` `<p>` `<lg>` `<l>`

`<italic>` `<persName>` `<placeName>` `<quote>` `<title>`

```
<head>Art. 26.—<title>Leonora</title>; by <persName>Miss Edgworth</persName>. 8vo. 2 Vols.</italic> Johnson. 1806.</head>
```

```
<p>The professors of modern philosophy have been already hunted down by moral writers with such vigour that we trust very few of the race remain; but while a single animal of this description exists, the efforts towards a complete extermination must not be relaxed:—there is now less glory in the enterprize, but the attempt is in itself always meritorious.</p>
```

```
<p>This novel is written in a series of letters. <persName>Leonora</persName> is a virtuous woman, and attributing the reports which she hears of <persName>Olivia's</persName> conduct to the mischievous spirit of scandal and to the malignity of envy, invites her to her house as an asylum from the persecutions of the malicious. <persName>Olivia</persName> is a professor of the modern philosophy, and has no other conceptions of the rules of right and wrong, that of rules for the game of whist, which may be very useful in the game of life, but which may be broken through or complied with in any particular emergence. She comes ripe from
```

The transcription of the reception item's content.

Excerpt or partial transcription?

Check if the transcription is an excerpt from a longer reception item

Quotations from other texts?

Check if the transcription contains quotes from works other than the primary text

WWiR: Transcription architecture

- Designed to get encoders of all skill levels working with little training
- CouchDB backend
 - NoSQL, JSON-based database
 - Accessible via web interface or HTTP request
- BackboneJS frontend
 - Connected to CouchDB API
 - Contains an index of records in the Couch database
 - Allows users to edit and update JSON records

Others are doing similar work

The CWRC Ontology Specification 0.99.7



The CWRC Ontology is the ontology of the Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory.

Women Writers Online

The screenshot shows the 'Women Writers Online' search interface. On the left, there is a search box with the text 'Search...' and an 'OK' button. Below the search box is a 'Filter' section with two categories: 'Genre' and 'Date'. The 'Genre' section lists: non-fiction [175], verse [141], drama [67], fiction [43], (3), and prose [2]. The 'Date' section lists: 16th c. [29], 17th c. [164], 18th c. [102], and 19th c. [86]. On the right, the search results are displayed under the heading 'Results: 381 texts'. The results list several works, including 'The Bridling, Saddling, and Riding of a Rich Churl in Hampshire, 1595', 'The Wonderful Discoverie of the Witchcrafts of Margaret and Phillip Flower, 1619', 'Swetnam, the Woman-Hater, Arraigned by Women, 1620', 'Eliza's Babes, 1652', 'The Female Wits, 1704', 'The Fortunate Transport, 1750', 'England's Tears: A Poem, 1774', 'Changing Scenes, 1825', 'Memoir of Mrs. Chloe Spear, 1832', 'A Summary History of New-England, 1799', and 'The History of the Jews, 1812'.

Women Writers Online

Search

Search...
Advanced... **OK**

Filter

Genre

- non-fiction [175]
- verse [141]
- drama [67]
- fiction [43]
- (3)
- prose [2]

Date

- 16th c. [29]
- 17th c. [164]
- 18th c. [102]
- 19th c. [86]

Results: 381 texts

- [unknown] — The Bridling, Saddling, and Riding of a Rich Churl in Hampshire, 1595
- [unknown] — The Wonderful Discoverie of the Witchcrafts of Margaret and Phillip Flower, 1619
- [unknown] — Swetnam, the Woman-Hater, Arraigned by Women, 1620
- [unknown] — Eliza's Babes, 1652
- [unknown] — The Female Wits, 1704
- [unknown] — The Fortunate Transport, 1750
- [unknown] — England's Tears: A Poem, 1774
- [unknown] — Changing Scenes, 1825
- [unknown] — Memoir of Mrs. Chloe Spear, 1832
- Adams, Hannah — A Summary History of New-England, 1799
- Adams, Hannah — The History of the Jews, 1812

Thank you

R. Stephenson-Goodnight (2019), *Women Writers in Review - modeling the reception of pre-XX-century works by women writers*, 2019 LD4 Conference on Linked Data in Libraries. CC BY 4.0

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