



**ACM Journal on Computing and
Cultural Heritage (JOCCH)
AEOLIAN Network Special Issue (2):
“Applying Innovative Technologies to Digitised
and Born-Digital Archives”
CALL FOR PAPERS
Deadline 28 February 2023**
<https://dl.acm.org/journal/jocch/aeolian>

Scope and Context

With this Special Issue from the [AEOLIAN \(Artificial Intelligence for Cultural Organisations\) Network](#), we want to offer an interdisciplinary forum to explore the application of innovative technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), to digital and born-digital archives.

Access to digital archives is essential, but we need to anticipate the moment when born-digital records will be more accessible. AI and machine learning (ML) applied to data in libraries and other cultural institutions are at the centre of current debates. To make sense of this mass of data, new methodologies are being applied, combining traditional methods in the humanities with data-rich approaches. These include the application of AI, ML, Natural Language Processing (NLP), and the automation of traditional archival tasks. Collaborations between humanities scholars, computer scientists, archivists and other stakeholders are therefore essential to making digital archives more accessible, but also to design new methodologies and approaches.

This special issue offers a space to explore innovative technologies applied to digitised and born-digital archives, focusing on researchers and other users. Indeed, scholarship has so far privileged record creators and archivists, while users have been largely neglected. We are interested in studies that explore these issues through the lens of AI, NLP and computational automation. We are also interested in qualitative studies of users that resist using such technologies and turn to more traditional methods such as close reading and historical analysis. Articles will explore themes such as use, users, impact, development, testing, evaluation, and co-creation in these archives. We want to provide a platform where various approaches and practices in using digitised and born-digital archives and records can come together, leading to innovative solutions.

This special issue seeks to bring together a range of disciplines (e.g. digital humanities, cultural heritage, archival studies, information studies, computer science), practices and sectors to explore the latest technologies being applied to digitised and born-digital archives across the globe. We particularly encourage submissions from professionals in the GLAM sector (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums).

Topics and Themes

The issue will appeal to academics and practitioners working in a range of disciplines, including cultural heritage workers, arts professionals and scholars interested in issues relating to digital resources and their impact upon research, curation, education, engagement, and outreach. We invite submissions

of both theoretical and practical approaches, displaying innovative research and state of the art methodologies, and welcome submissions from early career researchers.

We seek proposals that address the diverse impacts and applications of AI, ML, NLP, and computational automation in digitised and born-digital archives. We also welcome proposals that address the reluctance to engage with computational methods and the use of more traditional approaches in digital archives.

Topics and issues to be addressed include but are not limited to:

- Case Studies on innovative technologies applied to digitised and born-digital archives.
- Analysis of the status of traditional methods applied to digital archives
- Evaluations / Assessments of new technologies and/or digital cultural resources
- Addressing user needs and experiences (audiences / skillsets / awareness)
- Models of access to digital collections
- Collaborative / Interdisciplinary approaches to new technologies / methodologies
- Technology and the curation of digital resources
- The impact of innovative technologies on working practices with digital archives / collections
- Testing new methodologies
- Updating existing technologies
- Co-creation / Co-designing new approaches to current issues in digital collections
- The application of computational methods to measure digital resource usage
- Evaluating the impact of data-rich interventions in archives and archival objects.

Organisers

The theme of this Special Issue is informed by AEOLIAN's activities, workshop presentations, and discussions held since the launch of the network in February 2021. AEOLIAN is funded by a joint programme between the US National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) in the UK (more information about the programme can be found [here](#)). AEOLIAN is co-ordinated by UK PI **Dr Lise Jaillant** (Loughborough University) and US PI **Glen Layne-Worthy** (University of Illinois). Our Project Partners include the National Library of Scotland; the National Library of Wales; the Wellcome Collection; the History of Parliament Trust; Harvard's Houghton Library; Yale's Digital Preservation team and Music Library; Indiana University Libraries; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Libraries; Educopia; Frick Collection (NYC).

This special issue arises from the work of the AEOLIAN Network but invites submissions from all researchers and cultural heritage practitioners working in the area.

Paper submission

Research Papers submitted to this special issue for possible publication must be original and must not be under consideration for publication in any other journal or conference. Previously published or accepted conference papers must contain at least 30% new material to be considered for the special issue. Papers should be between 10 and 20 print pages, or **5,000–10,000** words. Accepted papers will be published in the *ACM Journal on Computing and Cultural Heritage*. Papers will be reviewed following the journal's standard review process. **Please follow the [format instructions](#) for the journal (<http://jocch.acm.org/authors.cfm>)**. All manuscripts must be prepared according to the journal publication guidelines which can also be found on the website provided above.

All papers are to be submitted at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jocch> .

Editors:

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Suggested Timeframe:

Submission deadline: **28 February 2022**

First Author Notification: March–April 2023

Revised papers expected: May 2023

Final acceptance notification: July 2023

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