

Brown Bag Lunch Presentation

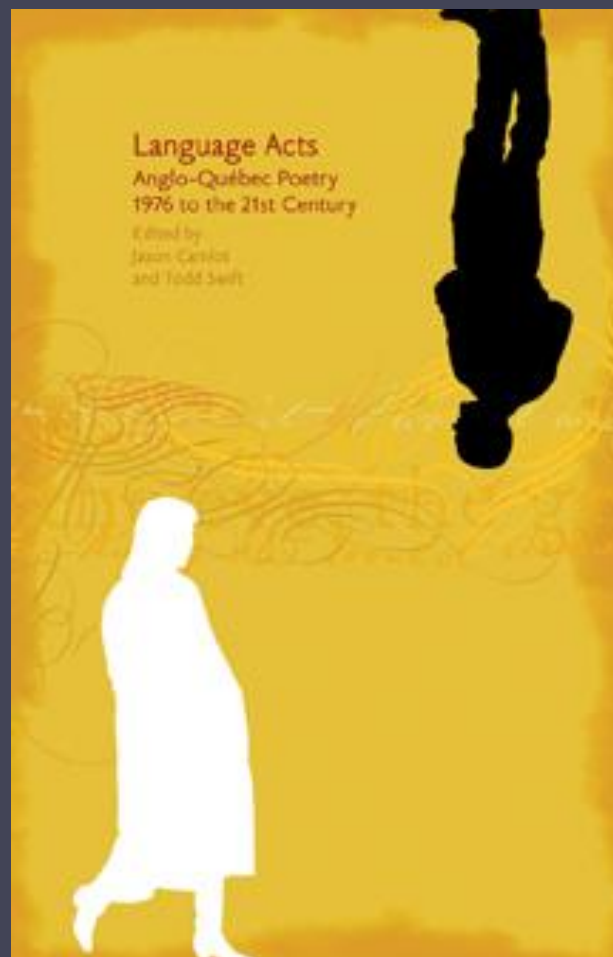
Spoken Web 2.0:
Conceptualizing and Prototyping
a Comprehensive Web-based
Digital Spoken-Word Interface
for Literary Research

Annie Murray
Jared Wiercinski

Concordia Libraries
March 31, 2011

Serendipitous Origins of Project

- Layton Out Loud event on October 1, 2009
- Promote digitized audio recordings, celebrate donors
- “We need a Laytonist or a Canadianist.”
- Shared interests in analog and digital audio



From Sir George Williams “Poetry Series” to research project

- “Poetry series” 1965-1972 (SGWU)
- 58 poets from across North America (Black Mountain, Beat, TISH)
- Reel-to-reel machines (80 hours)
- 2007 Concordia Archives converts to WAV format (3-year process)
- Text-based catalogue
- 2011 files uploaded to SoundCloud and then integrated into our WordPress site

Problem. Solution?

Problem:

- ⦿ Audio a challenging research format
- ⦿ Current digital sound archives in their infancy
- ⦿ [Example](#) (UbuWeb)

Solution?

- ⦿ A digital spoken word archive with the features that literary scholars want
- ⦿ Use the Poetry Series collection as a case study

SSHRC Grant Application

- ⦿ Contribution to grant application (Spring 2010)
 - What are ideal features of a digital spoken word archive?
 - What are software and hardware needs?
- ⦿ Grant awarded August 2010
- ⦿ Main project objectives:
 - ongoing environmental scan/lit review
 - development of a prototype interface

Spoken Web Team

- ⦿ Jason Camlot, Associate Professor and Chair, English
- ⦿ Darren Wershler, Assistant Professor, English
- ⦿ Jason Lewis, Assistant Professor, Design & Computation Art
- ⦿ Annie Murray, Digital & Special Collections Librarian
- ⦿ Jared Wiercinski, Digital Services & Outreach Librarian
- ⦿ Al Filreis, Professor, English, University of Pennsylvania
- ⦿ Deanna Fong, Graduate Student, English
- ⦿ Celyn Harding Jones, Graduate Student, English
- ⦿ Matthieu Tremblay, Graduate Student, Design & Computation Arts

Tour and demo of SpokenWeb

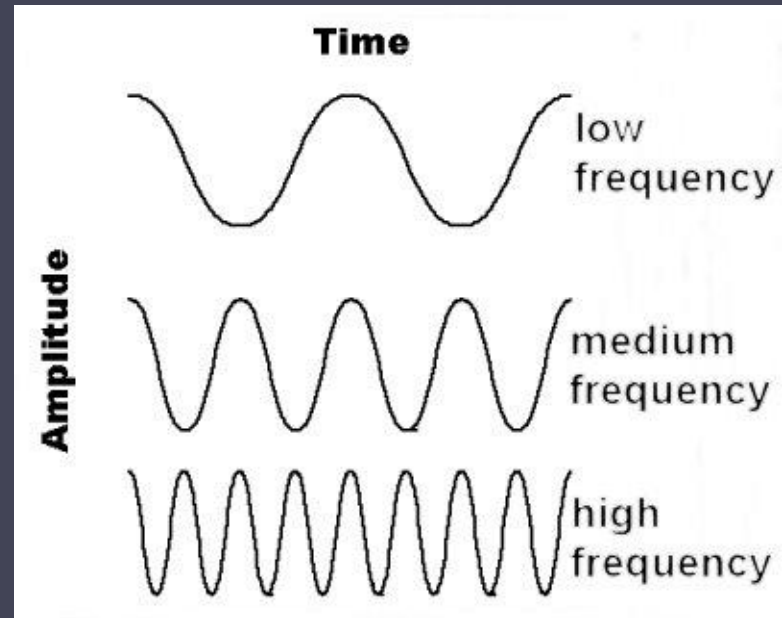
- [SpokenWeb](#)

Web development

- ⦿ Matthieu Tremblay, Graduate Student, Design & Computation Arts
- ⦿ WordPress CMS installed on university server
- ⦿ Needs/discovery based development
- ⦿ Scholars share ideas that occur during site use
 - Anglo-Quebec Literature FQRAC research team
 - Jason Camlot's [graduate summer course](#)
 - Others
- ⦿ Group members share ideas based on environmental scan/lit review

Tools: SoundCloud

- What is it?
- Pioneered the waveform in a web-based music platform
- [Example](#)
- Sponsor
- Features: stats, comments, cloud-based



Tools: TAToo

- TAToo (Text Analysis for me Too)
- University of Alberta
- [Demo](#)

Inspiration: Music Theatre Online

- Audio-text tethering
- Simultaneous comparison of variant scripts
- No waveform
- Associated media: images, videos, etc.
- Video

Inspiration: TED Talks

- ⦿ Interactive transcript feature
- ⦿ Query about how it works
- ⦿ [Example](#)
- ⦿ ASP's Ethnographic Video Online

Survey

- Spring 2011: Draft a survey of Canadian libraries, archives, English departments, creative writing departments and other organizations that might have literary recordings
- Objective: gauge extent of original English-language non-commercially produced recordings in Canada
- Objective: understand how others have dealt with these recordings
- Survey to be housed on SW site in Summer 2011

What do we look at when we listen?

- ⦿ Emerging question
- ⦿ Spoken Web Blog
- ⦿ Variations 3



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