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# Faculty Summit

10  
YEAR ANNIVERSARY

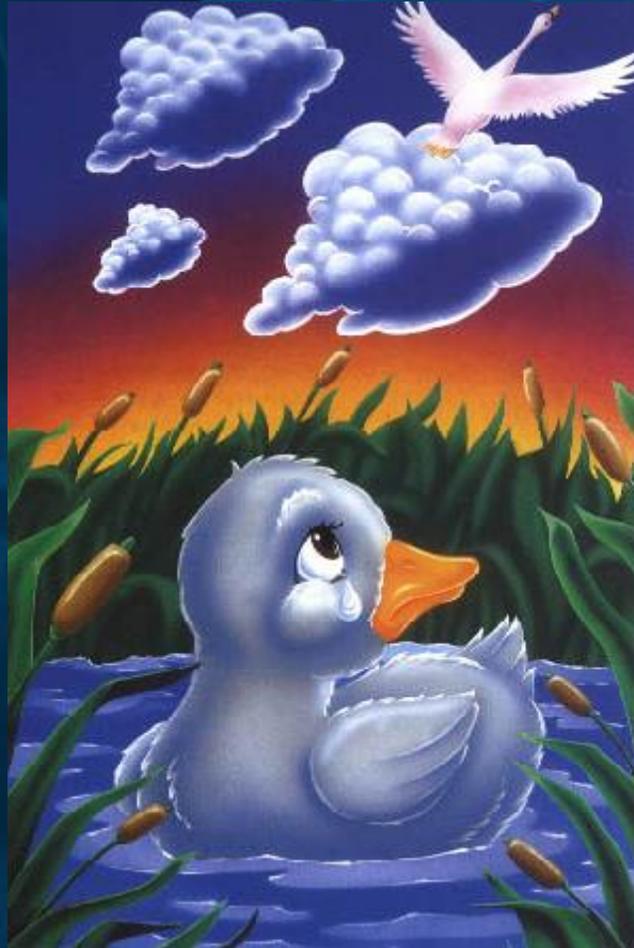
# Digital Humanities: an Historical Perspective

Jane Ohlmeyer  
Trinity College Dublin

# My background

- Professor of Modern History
- 1641 Depositions Project and TCD-digital initiatives
- Digital Humanities Observatory
- Chair of Irish Manuscripts Committee on Digitization
- Chair of IRCHSS/DARIAH Committee
- Irish representative on ESFRI, DARIAH, MSEG for EDL - Europeana

# The Ugly Duckling



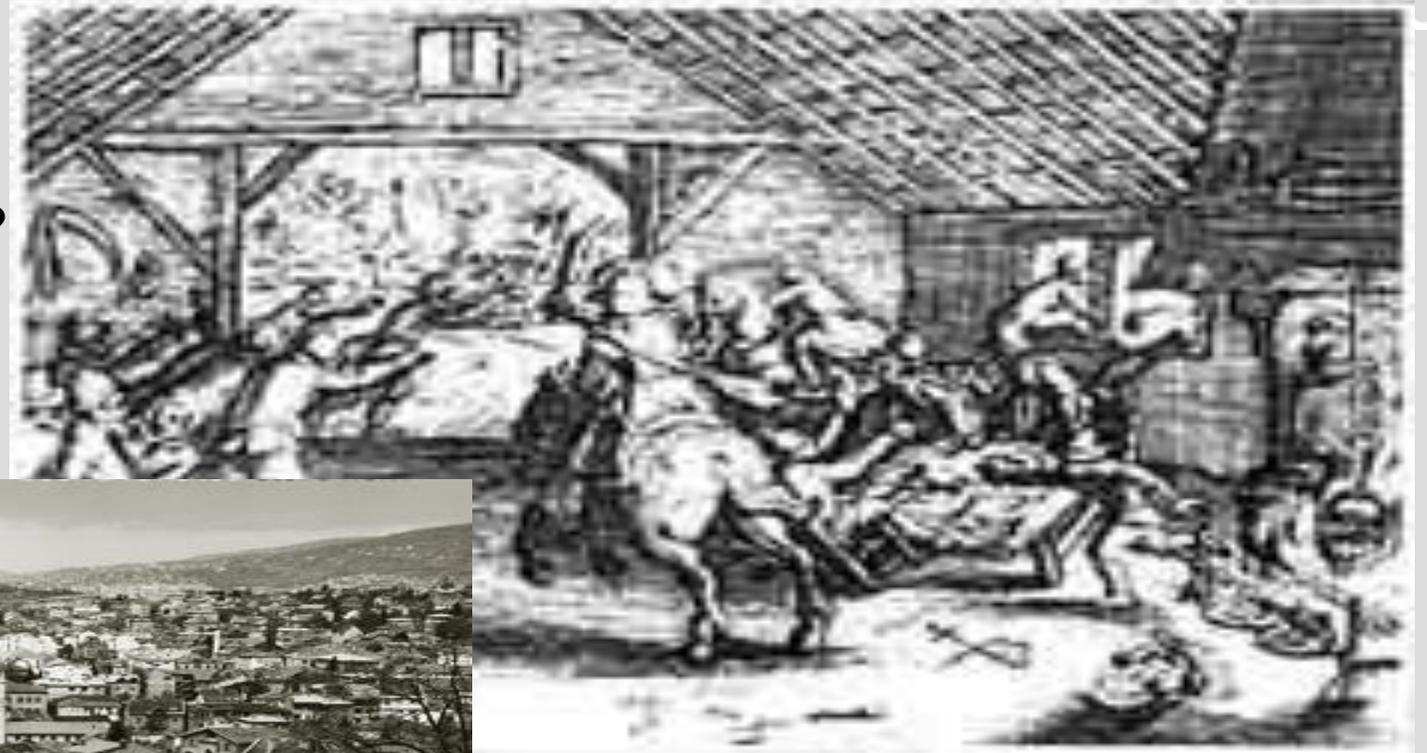
# The History ...

- Digital Humanities is a field of research concerned with the intersection of computing, information management and the disciplines of the humanities
- Roberto A. Busa
- Rossetti archive (<http://www.rossettiarchive.org/>)
- Valley of the Shadow project (<http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/>)
- New questions and new knowledge

*How can we still think  
when there is so much information?*



Do we *remember* the past?



or do we risk repeating it?



# The Challenges in Current Research Practices

- Linearity
- Isolated activity
- Layered approach
- Manual practices
- Disconnected materials
- The Trinity-Microsoft Virtual Research Environment



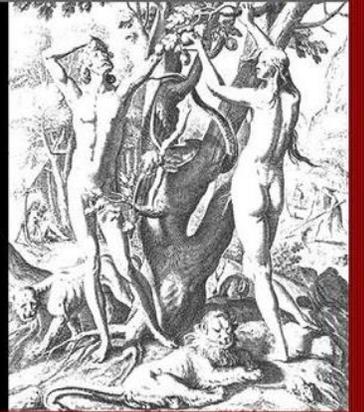
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Early English Books  
Online  
Text Creation Partnership

- Basic Search
- Boolean Search
- Proximity Search
- Bibliographic Search
- Word Index
- Browse



- About EEBO-TCP
- Demo EEBO-TCP
- comments to: UMDL Help

Virtual Dublin Project © ISG 2004



THE Long  
Room  
HUB

# Why the Humanities?

- Dirty, noisy data
- Technology deficient researchers with strong analytical skills
- Digital Content Analysis – text mining, visualization, search
- Digital Content Management – personalisation, metadata, interoperability
- (Web) Services Support – storage, curation and preservation
- (Web) Social Networking – crowd sourcing, community annotation, social network analysis, knowledge extraction

# A Case Study: the 1641 Depositions

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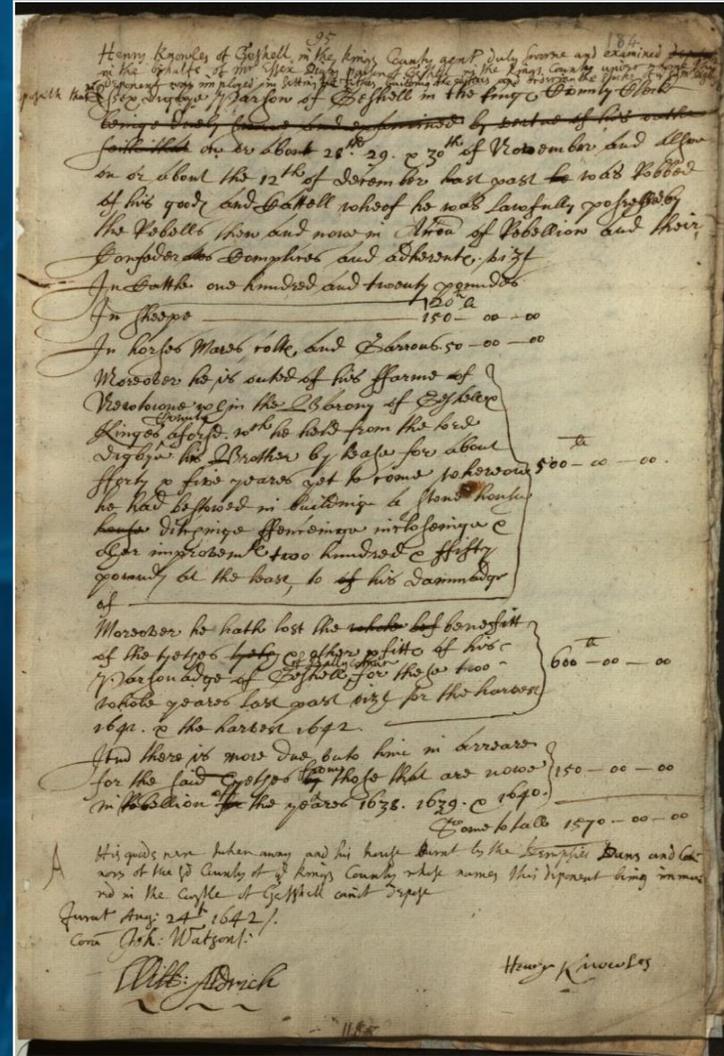
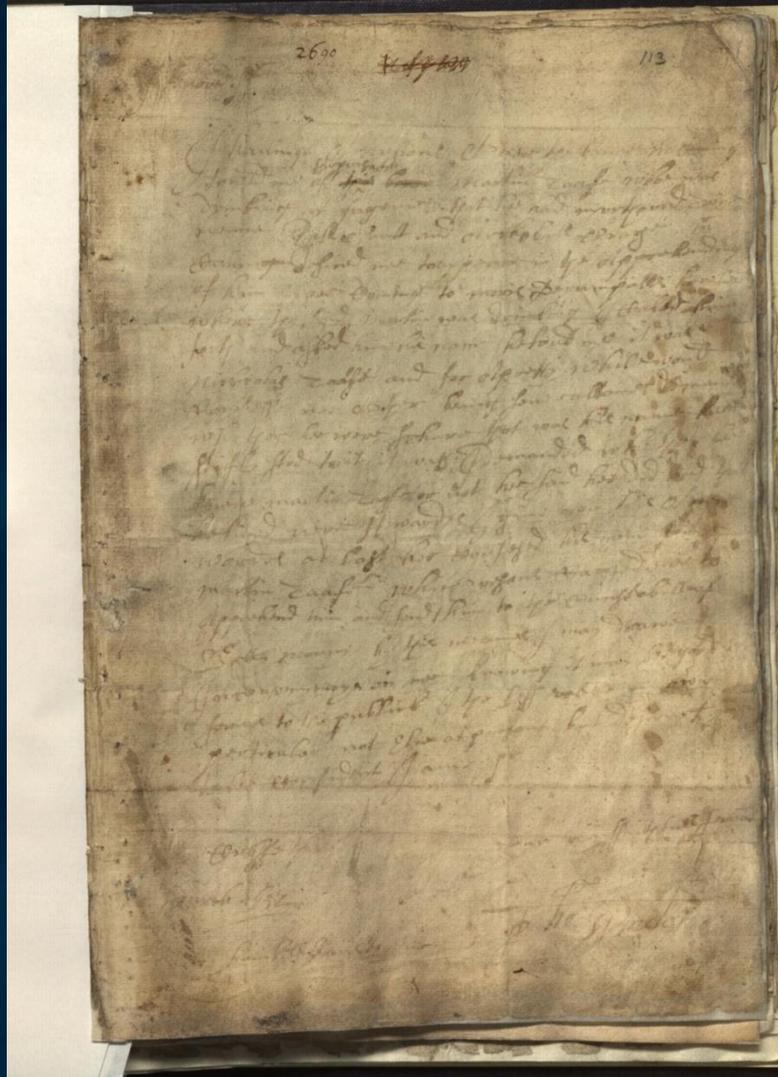
Joseph Joice of Kinsale in the County of Kerry gave  
 evidence and deposes, That after the Blacke warre  
 began in the County of Kerry about the year 1641  
 that this Joice was sent to the Castle of Kinsale  
 in the County of Kerry where he was kept  
 to the Kings service and that howbeit he had  
 maintained that Castle for ten months together  
 the night Joice was  
 after sharply and strongly besieged by the Rebels  
 and in due time  
 the Rebels and other persons in the Castle being  
 many were  
 distressed and driven to such extreame want  
 and misery that they  
 were enforced and very glad to eat the  
 flesh of horses and  
 dogs but having not enough of that  
 in any long time about  
 twelve or more men and women  
 were glad to eat  
 the flesh of the misery and want  
 was such that he could not  
 describe it  
 that one whoe was a Scotchman  
 pinched with extreame hunger  
 privately in the night tyme  
 opened the grave of a man  
 that was buried within  
 the liberties of the Castle  
 and fed vpon the dead  
 and buried mans flesh  
 Some of the souldjers  
 of the Castle partly  
 espyring him tooke ayme  
 & thincking him an enemy  
 shott him through soe  
 that he dyed  
 And that Scotchmans wife  
 afterwards hanged to death  
 her owne child and  
 ate her flesh for want  
 of meate:

1156

TCD MS 814, County Offaly (King's County),  
Deposition of Joseph Joice, who gave details of  
cannibalism that occurred in that county.

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extreame hunger privately in the night tyme  
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# Dirty, Noisy Data



The victim provides a detailed list of his losses including cattle, horses, sheep, tithes and his farm to the value of £1570.

TCD MS 839, fols 113r-114v  
Deposition of Thomas Windsor, Londonderry

TCD MS 814, King's County (Offaly),  
Deposition of Henry Knowles, 24 August 1642

# ***Microsoft***<sup>®</sup>

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