

Digital Technology in the Museum: a Cautionary Tale

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April 1, 2006

1. Introduction: Name that Prop!
2. History as Biography: My Past with Computers
 - a. Dates checked against the Timeline Exhibit at the Computer History Museum <<http://www.computerhistory.org/timeline/>>.
 - b. There appears to be a huge public for retro-computing <<http://www.obsoletecomputermuseum.org/>>.
 - c. Earls Colne, Essex: Records of an English Village 1375-1854, <<http://linux02.lib.cam.ac.uk/earlscolne/>>, part of <<http://alanmacfarlane.com/>>
 - d. *Localités/Localities* (web-based center for local history, sponsored by the History Dept., Eastern Illinois University) <<http://www.eiu.edu/~localite/>>
 - i. History Favorites on the Web (a Guide to History) <<http://www.eiu.edu/~history/favorites/>>
 - (1) Coles County History <<http://www.eiu.edu/~localite/coles/>>
 - (a) Coles County Legal History Project <<http://www.eiu.edu/~localite/coles/cclhp/>>
 - e. Search engines, tools, and sources in British History
 - i. RHS, Royal Historical Society Bibliography <<http://www.rhs.ac.uk/bibl/>> (free)
 - ii. OED, Oxford English Dictionary (based on historical principles) <<http://dictionary.oed.com/entrance.dtl>> (subscription)
 - iii. ODNB, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography <[http://www.oxforddnb.com/subscribed/? fromAuth=1](http://www.oxforddnb.com/subscribed/?fromAuth=1)> (subscription)
 - iv. EEBO, Early English Books Online digital facsimiles of virtually every work printed in British Isles and British North America and in English printed elsewhere, 1473-1700) <<http://eebo.chadwyck.com/home>> (subscription)
 - v. Bodleian Library Broadside Ballads (full facsimiles, 16th-19th centuries, free) <<http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ballads/>>
 - vi. The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, London (accounts of 101,102 trials, 1674 to 1834, free) <<http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>>
3. History as Cautionary Tale: the Luddites
 - a. Luddites, 1810s <<http://www.historyhome.co.uk/c-eight/distress/luddites.htm>>
 - b. Neo-Luddism (concern about current technology, a huge public here too)
 - i. <http://carbon.cudenver.edu/~mryder/itc_data/luddite.html>
 - ii. Kirkpatrick Sale <<http://www.io.com/~wazmo/luddite.html>>
4. The Problem
 - a. The Museum and the Website: Three Case Studies <<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MA05/macdonald/museums/home.html>>

- b. Archives & Museum Informatics: Museums and the Web 2006 (international conference, papers online)
<<http://www.archimuse.com/mw2006/speakers/index.html>>
- c. Stan Bunger, "Computer Valhalla: Moffett Field museum houses electronic artifacts few see -- but that may change," San Francisco Chronicle, May 20, 1999
<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/1999/05/20/BU77474.DTL&type=tech_article>
 - i. Computer History Museum, <<http://www.computerhistory.org/>>
 - ii. Digital Library for the Decorative Arts and Material Culture (List of selected Image Collections and links)
<<http://decorativearts.library.wisc.edu/images.html>>
- d. Public History Resources (Wright State University)
<<http://www.wright.edu/cola/Dept/hst/pubhst/resources.html>>
- e. ebay <<http://www.ebay.com/>> for historians and museum professionals?
 - i. Jonathan W. White, "An Unlikely Database: Using the Internet Creatively in Historical Research," *Perspectives* (March 2006),
<<http://www.historians.org/Perspectives/issues/2006/0603/0603vie3.cfm>>.
- f. H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online <<http://www.h-net.msu.edu/>>
 - i. H-Local (State and Local History and Museums)
<<http://www.h-net.org/~local/>>
 - ii. H-Museum <<http://www.h-net.org/~museum/>>
 - iii. H-Public (Public History) <<http://www.h-net.org/~public/>>
- g. museums and blogging
 - i. Exhibit Commons (blog) <<http://www.exhibitcommons.org/>>
 - ii. Museum Connect (blog) <<http://maybenotmaybe.net/museumconnect/>>
 - iii. Best Practices For Museum Website Design (University of Victoria)
<<http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/museumwebsites/>>
- h. virtual curating for museums?
 - i. myspace <<http://myspace.com/>>
 - ii. facebook <<http://facebook.com/>>
 - iii. dogster <<http://dogster.com/>>
 - iv. Linda Hales, "A Curate-Your-Own Museum Web Site" Washington Post, March 11, 2006, p. C02
<<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/10/AR2006031002342.html>>
 - (1) flickr <<http://flickr.com/>>
 - (2) del.icio.us (tagging) <<http://del.icio.us/>>
 - (3) wikipedia <<http://wikipedia.org/>>
 - (4) OPENSTUDIO (tagging, experimental online art exchange)
<<http://openstudio.media.mit.edu/tags>>