The Digitization of Special Collections in Libraries: An Annotated Bibliography

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Introduction and Scope:

The following bibliography concerns the digitization of special collections in libraries. Some of the included articles describe the logistical process of digitizing rare books, manuscripts, and other special collections artifacts. Several narrate specific digital acquisitions projects around the world to illuminate the financial, staffing and time concerns of such projects. Articles provide examples of various digitization strategies and the different databases created, such as those at the British Library and the University of Maryland Libraries. Most articles concentrate on the debates surrounding special collections digitization—many taking on an entirely one-sided presentation—and the consequences these technological changes may and have had on libraries. The focal point of these articles is the digitization of special collections items as it pertains to being made available on the internet through internet databases. Given the recent explosion in technology, and in an effort to ensure relevancy, all articles were published between 1998 and 2009.

Description:

Digital acquisition is a fairly recent movement of growing popularity among libraries and their special collections. The process of digitization, as it is applied to this paper, mostly pertains to the scanning or photographing of manuscripts, rare books, and various other artifacts in order to make their images available through online databases. Joy Humphrey writes that “the complexity of cataloging manuscripts, particularly medieval manuscripts, has meant that these materials have remained largely inaccessible to the public” (2007, p.19). Creating digital access means increasing accessibility; a benefit for which digital acquisition has been greatly praised. Preservationist Abby Smith, however, points out that “the context in which one views or uses an artifact can have significant bearing on how the item is experienced or perceived” (2003, p.177).
These articles address the debates like this one that besiege the digitization of special collections, as well the affect of digitization on libraries.

**Summary of Findings:**

The digitization of special collections libraries has proven advantageous to many libraries in increasing access and availability, and lending itself to the preservation of rare and unique materials. Through digital acquisition, “we have means for preserving objects that simultaneously diffuses them to new and larger audiences” (Nichols, 2008). As digitization becomes more popular, nevertheless, its merits are widely debated.

According to Preservationist Abby Smith, “capturing content when you can is the safest strategy” (Smith, 2007, p.12). Digital preservation ensures that fragile artifacts, which may deteriorate over time, are sustained in at least some sense, and made available for future generations through technological imaging. When selecting a document for digitizing, a librarian “must consider expected usage and physical condition of the artifact” (Nikolva-Houston, 2008, p.115). For, it must be said that the very act of scanning or photographing an artifact can in itself be destructive. Tears, blemishes and crinkling are just a few of the dangers involved in digitizing. As Boegn puts it, ““The prime motto is to scan only once and touch the original never again” (2000, p.45). And so a sort of paradox is created: one in which the effort to protect an item can results in its detriment.

Digital acquisition again finds itself pulled in opposite directions when considering the issue of security. For the British Library’s Vulnerable Collection Items Project, the goal of digitization was security. Digitizing would “enable the highest possible level of identification of distinguishing features” (Kowal, 2009, p.109). On the other hand, “Scrutiny of material available on the web is intense and unpredictable; and making special collections available digitally carries
with it the potential penalties of higher visibility” (Prochaska, 2009, p.18). In *Digital Access to Antiquities*, Gladney recounts IBM’s security solutions for the Vatican’s digitization project with watermarking. Watermarking may provide increased security, but essentially, alters the artifact presented.

And then there is the question of authenticity. “In cataloging a manuscript, the item itself is studied, not solely its contents” (Humphrey, 2007, p.20). One answer to this inequity has been through the use of metadata. But given time, staffing, and financial restrictions, just how thorough can metadata be? Schuchard argues that “what interests the scholar is not literary reputations in the archive but the preservation and accessibility of the materials of the creative imagination, the physical materials, including all the detritus, debris, and ephemera of art, biography, and history” (Schuchard, 2002, p.59). Digitization of artifacts can be a useful tool for providing content access, but there is also the need for physical access which cannot always be reconciled (Nikolva-Houston, 2009, p.111).

One downfall of increasing accessibility through digitization is that “special collections print holdings will become less special” (Hirtle, 2002, p.47). This is yet another source of conflict for libraries when considering digital acquisition. Should the library preserve its assets as entirely unique, or as entirely accessible? Schuchard notes that “the manuscript and rare book budgets in many institutions have become dry wells” (p.60). Libraries are placing increasing significance on computers and technological access, as digital communication technologies accelerate the demand for ready access to information (Smith, 2007, p.7).

With such controversy over digitization, the process of such an initiative has become a daunting one. “Examples of restrictive elements include preservation concerns, misunderstanding of research needs, overestimation of digitization costs, reliance on authority
figures, misapplication of digitization standards, the problem of selection, fear of equipment obsolescence, lack of subject expertise, lack of permission, historical prejudice, and fear of changing research needs.” (Nikolva-Houston, 2008, p.109) Libraries may face inconsistent funding and support (Gueguen, 2009, 469).

The articles in this bibliography detail all of these concerns and more. Though many cited papers present a case against digital acquisition, they all purport an attitude of acceptance, admitting that digitization is the way of the future. According to Ulrich’s all of the referenced articles have been refereed, and most of those selected have been published within the last ten years to ensure relevancy.

Bibliography:

Entry 1:


Abstract: Digitizing is the first and most important step in a preservation and electronic publishing process applied to analog information available today as text, graphic, or multimedia. In most cases, it cannot be done by museums alone. In this paper we describe our realization approach to evaluate the best fitting service provider in the context of “The Digital Beethoven House” project….The paper also gives practical hints for museums…how to do the digitizing of their museum’s stock right and how to receive useful output for the museum’s internet offer.

Annotation: Through its recount of the digitizing project of The Beethoven House, this article explicates the methodology behind digitization, and also brings the primary challenges and concerns of such a conversion to light. This article points out that before the project, most of these artifacts were virtually untouchable, and the primary goal of digitizing such fragile artifacts is to “scan only once and to touch the original never again” (3). It describes the numerous formats available for digitization (i.e. CD-Rom, internet publishing, facsimiles, etc.) and provides a brief overview of the methodology behind digitizing other media types.

Search Strategy: I used the ERIC database for this search, because I am more comfortable with ERIC’s Thesaurus than any other controlled vocabulary databases. I searched the Thesaurus for terms like “manuscripts” and “digital”, which lead me to ERIC’s preferred terminology, which I then transferred to my search. I also was able to narrow the results to peer-reviewed only. The
citation for this article did not provide information about the journal issue other than page number.

**Method of Searching:** Controlled Vocabulary

**Database:** ERIC Thesaurus

**Search String:** Publications AND electronic libraries

**Entry 2:**


**Abstract:** This paper presents research focused on developing new techniques and algorithms for the digital acquisition, restoration, and study of damaged manuscripts. We presents results from an acquisition effort in partnership with the British Library, funded through the NSF-DLI-2 program, designed to capture 3-D models of old and damaged manuscripts. We show how these 3-D facsimiles can be analyzed and manipulated in ways that are tedious and even impossible if confined to the physical manuscript.

**Annotation:** Though this article is concerned only with the digitization of manuscripts, it remains remarkably unbiased in that it says nothing to support or undermine digital acquisitions, aside from state that these findings may be useful in an increasingly digital environment. This article deals primarily with the logistics of the digitization process and includes multiple images. Brown and Seales explain how new forms of 3-D acquisition and restoration can capture aspects of manuscripts that could only be done previously through descriptive metadata.

**Search Strategy:** I found this source by browsing the results of a controlled vocabulary search in the ERIC Thesaurus. I searched the thesaurus for terms like “manuscripts” and “digital”, then used ERIC’s preferred terms and refined my search to peer reviewed to locate this article.

**Database:** ERIC Thesaurus

**Method of Searching:** Controlled Vocabulary

**Search String:** Publications and electronic libraries

**Entry 3:**

**Abstract:** Artifacts are now being included in digital imaging projects at an increasing rate. Digital imaging staff are rarely experienced in the handling or disposition of artifacts and often regard the artifact as being “preserved” simply through the act of digitization. The guidelines refer to some of the problems likely to be encountered in the intersection of conservation and digitization and make some recommendations on procedures designed to address them.

**Annotation:** This article discusses the process of digitizing physical artifacts, detailing all of the factors that should be considered when scanning rare books and manuscripts. Cornell University’s Director of the Department of Preservation and Collections Maintenance, John F. Dean, treats digitization as a form of conservation, but recognizes that these are different philosophies and one is not always indicative of the other.

**Search Strategy:** I went to Dialog’s ERIC database because of the wealth of information available through ERIC, and Dialog’s flexibility to specify your own search needs. From there, I went to the Hagerty Library’s journal search to locate the full text of this item using the citation information.

**Database:** ERIC [Dialog] and EBSCOhost Education Research Complete

**Method of Searching:** Keyword and Citation

**Search String:** ?s (rare()book? OR manuscript? OR special()collection? OR ephemera) AND (digitization OR digital) AND LA=English AND py>2000 AND py<2005

**Entry 4:**


**Abstract:** In this paper I propose ten principles. I freely admit that “principles” is too grand a word - - perhaps they’re better as “sound bytes”…Regardless, these are ten simple ideas that have helped me move my own thinking forward as our professional world has progressed from being artifact-centered to one in which original objects will increasingly service as “preservation originals”. This is happening as our users increasingly want to access our materials remotely—and, thus, digitally.

**Annotation:** Dooley cites the Rare Books and Critical Manuscripts Section Preconference as the inspiration for her proposed principles for professional advancement in an increasingly digitized world. Nevertheless, Dooley unknowingly presents a contradiction in her biases. She writes negatively of our society’s ability to cope with the “born digital dilemma” and states that special collections librarians are adapting too “conservatively” to keep up with these advancements (See “Make Your Work Economically Sustainable”). Later, the article states that special collections librarians “need not bear lead responsibility” in this initiative (see “Collaborate, Collaborate, Collaborate”) . Ultimately, Dooley encourages librarians to lay down their “allegiance to the physical book” to keep pace with an increasingly digitized world.
Search Strategy: Bearing in mind the success of my previous searches on the Library Literature and Information Science Full-Text database, I continued my keyword search there, specifically narrowing my search to peer reviewed articles.

Database: Library Literature and Information Science Full-Text

Method of Searching: Keyword

Search String: Special collections and librarians and digital or digitalization

Entry 5:


Abstract: Looks at the long term-implications of library digitization and suggests that the changes thus far may be merely an introduction to a much greater transition that lies ahead. Refers to the experiences of academic libraries, where there has been a sweeping transition to electronic journals and growth in the availability of other digital collections. Wider access to rare and special collections is offered by digitization and steps to achieve more universal access to international repositories are underway.

Annotation: Falk provides a general overview of the technological changes currently affecting libraries as they seek to digitize their materials. He points to greater accessibility and preservation of rare and special collections. The article concludes that the role of the library will change from a place to a service, but fails to address the consequences and debates surrounding such a shift.

Search Strategy: I conducted a keyword search in the ACM Digital Library because I am partial to the database’s array of refinement techniques. I refined my search according to subject area and language, and displayed my results by date.

Database: ACM Digital Library

Search Method: Keyword

Search String: Manuscripts or rare books or special collections and digital or digitization. Refined by: subject area = Information science and library science, languages = English

Entry 6:

Abstract: As a direct path to original sources, digitized manuscripts and images should reflect not only the artists’ values but the readers’ privacy and the owner’s confidentiality. Since 1985, we have worked with collections of artistic and historic materials, including the Biblioteca Vaticana Apostolica (the Vatican), the Arhivo General de Indias (Seville, Span), Andrew Wyeth’s work (Chadds Ford, Penn), the Klau Library of Hebrew Union College (Cincinnati, Oh.), and the Yale Beinecke Library (New Haven, Conn.). Images included here suggest the cultural values monitoring this work, portions of which can now be conveyed quickly to scholars’ and students’ desktops.

Annotation: IBM research staffers’ relate past digitization projects, their goals and motivations, and the processes involved. This article comments on digitization only as a positive and useful mechanism for the diffusion of information. In its discussion of security procedures and quality transmission, however, this article brings to light techniques in digitization which may lend themselves to scholarly debate – such as spatial filtering, watermarking, and various other digital revisions which promote security but as the reader may deduce, interfere with a reproduction’s authenticity.

Search Method: Though I have found the bulk of my relevant resources through ERIC and the Library Literature and Information Science databases, I conducted a keyword search through the ACM Digital Library to ensure that I did not neglect any potentially useful sources. I also checked Ulrich’s to verify that this resource has been peer reviewed.

Database: ACM Digital Library

Method of Searching: Keyword

Search String: Manuscripts or rare books and digitization

Entry 7:


Abstract:
This paper examines the experience of one institution, the University of Maryland Libraries, as it made organizational efforts to harness existing workflows and to capture digitization done in the course of responding to patron requests. By examining the way this organization adjusted its existing workflows to put in place more systematic methods for digital capture of unique collections, the authors hope to provide insight into the benefits and pitfalls of one model for scaling up digitization.

Annotation: Gueguen and Hanlon discuss the potential obstructions to library digitization, such as inconsistent funding or a lack of organization support, as seen through a cast study of the University of Maryland’s digitization workflow. This article describes the issues of staffing, creating high quality materials, creating metadata, and discusses the debate surrounding “digital
collections” as a limiting system of organization. Although intended as a learning model, this article is heavily biased in favor of digitizing special collections. It does not address the debate about the qualitative merits of digitizing, and instead argues that the only problem with digitization is that it has not become the “core function of most libraries’ missions”.

Search Strategy: I used the ERIC Thesaurus because I have found their controlled vocabulary terms the most intuitive and user-friendly. I had already found the terms “electronic libraries” and “publications” as preferred terms through a previous search, and by searching for “library collections”, added ERIC’s preferred “library materials” to my search.

Database: ERIC

Method of Searching: Controlled vocabulary

Search String: Electronic libraries and publications and library materials

Entry 8:


Abstract: Digitization has brought significant benefit to users of special collections. It will also challenge the relative value given to paper originals of rare materials as digital holdings increase. Special collections will need to justify their unique value through a deeper understanding of their holdings and an extension of their scope.

Annotation: In this paper, given at the Fleur Cowles Flair Symposium, “The Infinite Library”, in 2000, librarian and bibliographer Peter Hirtle examines the moral issues of digitizing special collections, comparing this initiative to the Manhattan Project. This paper uses real life examples to demonstrate the benefits of digitization, but then goes on to describe the changes in library and special collections use—sometimes negative—that are provoked by digitization. Hirtle concludes in an optimistic tone, instructing librarians how to address and adapt to these changes while simultaneously preserving the value of their collections.

Search Strategy: I searched the ERIC database in Dialog because of its vast holdings on the subject of Library Science. I used keywords to find this citation in Dialog, and after verifying that Libraries and Culture is refereed in Ulrich’s, I then did a citation search through the Hagerty Library to find the full text in EBSCOHost Education Research Complete.

Database: ERIC [Dialog], and then EBSCOHost Education Research Complete

Method of Searching: Keyword and Citation

Entry 9:


Abstract: The complexity of cataloging manuscripts, particularly medieval manuscripts, has meant that these materials have remained largely inaccessible to the public….Even when manuscripts have been cataloged, they have often been physically available only to a few elite scholars who are able to gain access to them. Certain institutions have embarked on projects to reverse this situation. This paper deals with three of these projects: the British Library’s Digital Catalogue of Illuminated Manuscripts (DigCIM), a European consortium’s database entitled Manuscripts and Letters Via Integrated Networks in Europe (MALVINE), and Columbia University’s Digital Scriptorium (DS).

Annotation: This article examines the history and goals of three manuscript digitization projects: DigCIM, MALVINE, and DS. Humphrey then describes the different descriptive metadata elements utilized by each system and provides a table for ready comparison. The author goes on to conclude that while all have their comparative merits and advantages, they have all successfully achieved their digitization goals and are incomparably useful in preserving and increasing access to manuscript information.

Search Strategy: I used Library Literature and Information Science Full-Text in Dialog because of the wealth of information available on this topic, and also the ability to easily view descriptors and abstracts in Dialog. I then performed a citation search through Drexel’s Hagerty Library to find the full text of this article in Informaworld.

Database: Library Literature and Information Science Full-Text [Dialog] and Informaworld

Method of Searching: Keyword and Citation

Search String: ?s (rare()book? OR manuscript?) AND (digitization OR digital) AND LA=English AND py>2005

Entry 10:


Abstract: In the projected described in this paper, the British library employed existing and emerging library standards and systems to accomplish key functions in a project to digitize a selection of maps and views contained within rare books. While the project involved a number of stages and areas of expertise, this paper will explicate the manner in which the authors handled
the need for descriptive metadata identifying the item and its source, documenting copy-specific attributes, and making the record and its digital surrogate accessible.

**Annotation:** Reference librarians Kowal and Martyn explicate the Vulnerable Collection Items Project undertaken at the British Library in order to digitize maps found in rare books. This project was originally “security oriented”; designed to project the library’s holdings, but later praised as a means to expand user access. This paper recounts the British Library’s project to detail use of MARC and various other cataloging methods to capture metadata, and finally describes the variables which ought to be considered when choosing a cataloging scheme.

**Search Strategy:** I chose the Library Literature and Information Science Full-Text database because of its flexibility in limiting my search to peer reviewed articles. I searched for keywords and refined my search to within the last ten years, but ultimately found this resource by browsing my results and looking at related items.

**Database:** Library Literature and Information Science Full-Text

**Method of Searching:** Browsing

**Search Strain:** My search strain started as rare books and digital or digitalization, but really ended with browsing results and related items.

**Entry 11:**


**Abstract:** On the assumption that the widespread availability of knowledge benefits the human condition more than the restriction of knowledge, elements restrictive to the dissemination of manuscripts, archives, and early printed books should be overcome, and the intellectual content of such items should be available to as wide an audience as possible through the digital library equivalent of the medieval scriptorium, termed here the ‘virtual scriptorium’.

**Annotation:** Concluding with an ominous “digitize now, and they [reformatting issues] may be overcome”, University of Texas professors Nikolva-Houston and Houston adopt an instructional tone and encourage digitization according to their prescribed method (120). This article references the surveys and initiatives of the Historical and Archival Church Institute (HACI) in Bulgaria to detail the practices of “the effective digital librarian” (114).

**Search Strategy:** Using the “FULL” format feature in Dialog, I was able to browse the abstracts of my keyword results to ensure their relevance. I used the Library Literature and Information Science database because of its applicability to my search subject.

**Database:** Library Literature and Information Science Full-Text [Dialog]
**Method of Searching:** Keyword

**Search Strain:** ?s (rare()book? OR manuscript?) AND (digitization OR digital) AND LA=English AND py>2005

**Entry 12:**


**Abstract:** This article focuses on the Nichols’ efforts at “creating a digital library that would show the evolution of the *Romance of the Rose* codices from the late thirteenth century to the early sixteenth…What became apparent was that with digital technology we were re-creating the medieval stationer’s shop. ..as with each medieval manuscript, each digital surrogate is a unique object”.

**Annotation:** Johns Hopkins University Professor Stephen Nichols likens the process of the medieval creation of a manuscript to the contemporary translation of a manuscript into a digital format. This article recounts the digitization of 250 *Romance of the Rose* codices to illustrate this parallel, and finally demonstrate the distinctive nature of any single digitized work.

**Search Strategy:** I selected the Library of Literature and Information Science because of its pertinence to the field I am researching. Keyword searching in dialog allowed me to narrow my search to relevant dates.

**Database:** Library of Literature and Information Science Full-Text [Dialog]

**Method of Searching:** Keyword

**Search Strain:** ?s (rare()book? OR manuscript?) AND (digitization OR digital) AND LA=English AND py>2005

**Entry 13:**


**Abstract:** The digitization of special collections has always been a complicated picture….In a gathering of experts in this field, one ventures with trepidation to define the “big picture”, knowing that every chosen word potentially carries a host of meanings….I do not wish to “misunderestimate” the potential for misunderstanding in the topic before us. But I do hope, to quote Mrs. Malaprop…that as I venture forward in this difficult and sometimes contested field, I can do so without attracting too many “aspersions on my parts of speech”.
Annotation: Alice Prochaska, Chair of the Association of Research Libraries’ Special Collections Working Group, presents the issues of “rendering analog materials into an electronic format” (3) through an account of the group’s efforts to make “accessible collections that would otherwise remain hidden” (2). Google Books is used as an example to demonstrate the issues of quality and copyright that are so prevalent when dealing with digitized artifacts.

Search Strategy: I search the Library Literature and Information Full-Text database because I like the database’s ability to limit searches to “peer-reviewed”. Utilizing this refinement, I searched for keywords.

Database: Library Literature and Information Full-Text

Method of Searching: Keyword

Search Strain: libraries and special collections and digitization

Entry 14:


Abstract: A literary scholar recounts his personal experience with manuscripts and archival materials of great variety and sees a pendulum shift back toward examining original source materials. Special collections need to reinsert themselves into the mainstream of intellectual life and promote themselves to students and scholars more effectively.

Annotation: Schuchard’s paper, given at the Fleur Cowles “Fleur” Symposium in Austin, Texas, in 2002 is a largely opinionated piece of the shift from physical artifacts to digital resources. Schuchard argues that archival research can never be replaced and condemns digital resources as “temporary tool[s that] accommodate error in work” (59). Schuchard cites examples of library digitization at Trinity College in Dublin, and calls for special collections libraries to better integrate themselves into universities by opening their doors and incorporating their use into curriculum. His call for the preservation and integration of special collections, nevertheless, speaks to the decreasing popularity of physical artifacts in favor of digital information.

Search Strategy: After browsing my previous search results, I noticed additional descriptors that I could add to my searches, and incorporated those terms into a search phrase I had previously used in the ERIC database through Dialog to obtain additional results. Once I found this resource, I did a citation search through Drexel’s Hagerty Library to find the full text of this essay.

Database: ERIC [Dialog] and EBSCOHost Education Research Complete.

Method of Searching: Keyword and Citation

Entry 15:


Abstract: This essay explores…the ability of an artifact, through its physical presence, to create an experiential and affective response in the researcher. The essay further explore the implications for collectors and special collections librarians of the fact that digital objects can be likened to physical artifacts because they also claim experiential and affective authenticity.

Annotation: Professor and library preservationist Abby Smith presents both the arguments for and against digitizing special collections items by focusing on the debate about the subjectivity of authenticity. Smith utilizes Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s character and his summations about Dr. Watson’s watch to demonstrate how some interpretations are only made possible by observation of a physical document. Smith plays devil’s advocate, supporting claims of scholars both for and against this digitization, ultimately admitting that digitization is an evolution necessary for libraries.

Search Strategy: I selected the ERIC database in Dialog because of the mass quantity of resources pertaining to library science available through ERIC. I used a keyword search because this was one of my first searches. Once I found the citation through Dialog, I used Hagerty Library’s journal citation search to locate the full-text through EBSCO Host Education Research Complete.

Database: ERIC [Dialog] and EBSCOHost Education Research Complete

Method of Searching: Keyword and Citation


Entry 16:


Abstract: This article explores the societal value of preservation, discussing why questions about society value arise in the context of the explosive growth of digital information and why they are qualitatively different questions from the ones that arose when the world knew only analog communication technologies…It identifies benefits that preservation as such brings to society, over and above the sum of the value of the content preserved. It also examines the range
of public policy issues that arise in light of the social values identified, virtually none of which are currently protected by law or regulation.

**Annotation:** Smith compares the analog and the digital, and discusses the value of preservation through digital technologies by citing both its drawbacks—such as the long-term maintenance investment required for digital preservation—and its benefits—for instance, how use increases value. Smith presents all elements of her argument from such a myriad of angles that she eventually (although perhaps unconsciously) makes the case that the benefits and costs of digital preservation are subjective, and concludes that preservation is a necessary, if not moral, obligation to any culture.

**Search Strategy:** Through my earlier keyword searches, I found the “Authenticity and Affect” by Abby Smith. I did a brief look-up of the author and learned that Smith has lectured widely on preservation and technological transformation. Smith’s area of expertise was directly relevant to my research topic, so I performed an author search to find similar articles by her.

**Database:** Library Literature and Information Science Full-Text

**Method of Searching:** Author

**Search String:** Abby Smith

**Concluding Personal Statement:**

The articles cited in this bibliography encompass many, but surely not all, of the debates surrounding the digitization of special collections items. I chose articles that explained both the process itself and the concerns that such initiatives evoke. I worked to the best of my ability to ensure that the only resources I utilized were scholarly and authoritative. I read over twenty articles, but discarded many because of their lack of relevancy or questionable authority. Given the time frame of my search results, I believe that digital acquisition is a growing debate that is just beginning to accelerate. The majority of the articles that I found came from the last ten years, and of them, most were written within the last three. After some time, despite changing my keywords and search techniques, I found that I was consistently coming across the same few results. I attribute this to the growing interest in this topic rather than a lack of interest. Based on
my findings and these articles, I believe that digital acquisitions is just now entering the spotlight as an area of controversy.

It is also for this reason that I did not have much success with author searches. I conducted searches for all of the relevant authors in my bibliography, but just one yielded useful results. Of all of my search strategies, I found keyword to be the most pertinent. I much prefer natural language searching of controlled vocabulary. I attempted multiple controlled vocabulary searches, but I found that I better specify and narrow my results through keyword. Again though, I must point out that I ascribe my lack of successful controlled vocabulary searches to the only recent interest in this topic. Given more time, however, I believe we will see an increase of materials published on digitization and special collections.