

What a Japanese/Korean Studies Librarian Learned from Collaborating with a German/Comparative Literature Digital Humanities Project

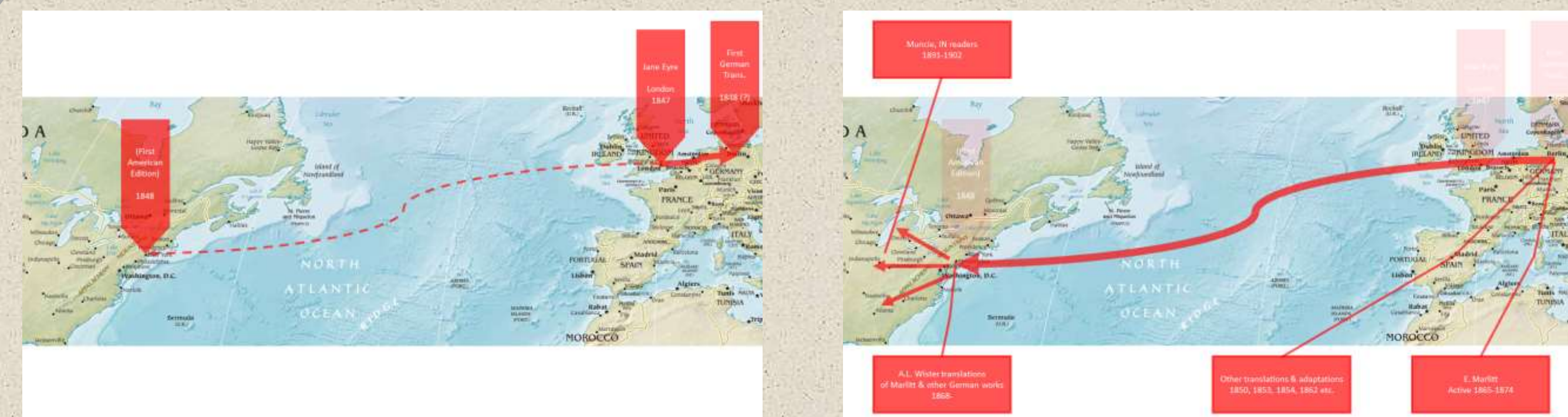
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- I was a Librarian Summer Fellow at Washington University's Humanities Digital Workshop (HDW) in 2015
- I learned that the best way (for me, at least) to learn new skills and get inspirations for your own projects was by actually doing the work
- I also learned that libraries and librarians are well equipped to contribute to DH projects

The Program

- Summer librarian fellow pilot program: 2015-
- Addition to HDW student fellows: undergraduate and graduate, semester and summer, offered regularly since 2008
- HDW buys out 50% of librarian time
- June – early August (follows student summer fellow schedule)
- 4 librarians selected and took part in 2015 – 2 from special collections (conservator, archivist), 1 from main library (subject librarian) and 1 from East Asian Library (that's me)
- Was repeated in summer 2016 with 3 librarian fellows – 2 subject librarians and 1 Data/GIS

The Project



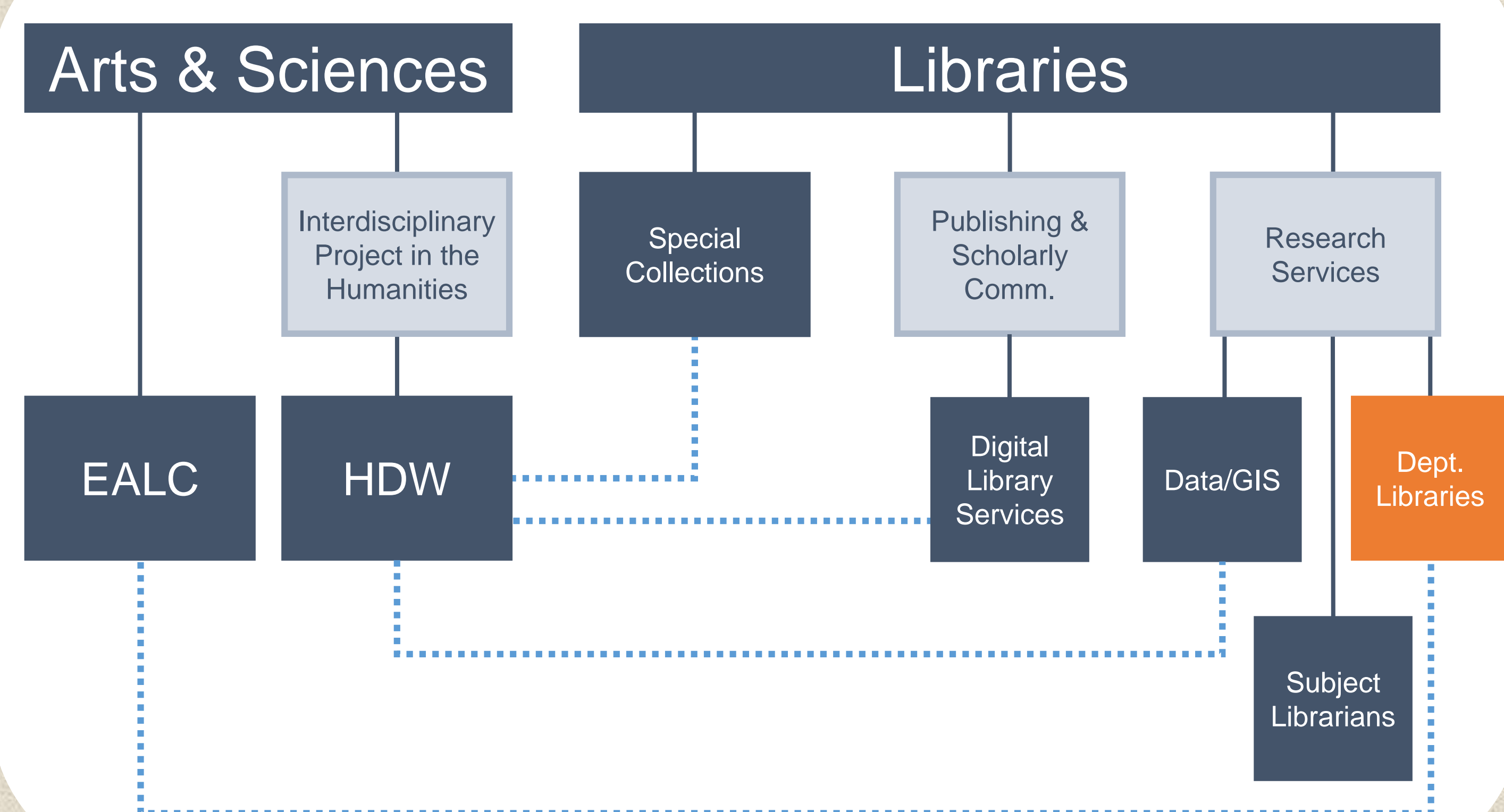
- English translations of German romance were popular among female readers in 19th Century United States
- The project tries to capture the “full circle” of the production and consumption of 19C German romance: Jane Eyre – German translation – German romance – US readers

Components (and skills involved)

- Analysis of “What Middletown Read” data (<http://www.bsu.edu/libraries/wmr/>) – SQL
- Finding and cleaning up digital text (and when necessary, digitizing and OCR), preparing text for future computational analysis – general knowledge of where to find digitized text*, basic understanding of the requirements of text analysis, regular expression
- Database of English translations of German romance, based on PI's collection – database backend, authority control and VIAF*

* denote skills I had already been using as a librarian

The Setting



- HDW (2007-) closely affiliated with the Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities (2002-), an Arts & Sciences academic unit
- 2 full-time technology specialists
- About 10 faculty projects, mostly in English, German Literature and History
- No East Asian project at the time of Summer 2015 (1 Chinese history project currently)
- Special Collections, Digital Library Services and Data/GIS has had some collaboration with HDW projects and/or digital projects of their own involving A&S faculty

The Team



- PI: Dr. Lynne Tatlock (Germanic Lang. & Lit.)
- 2 HDW technologists (assigned to all projects)
- 3 student fellows (1 graduate, 2 undergraduate)
- (1 graduate fellow assigned across several projects involving digitization/OCR)
- 1 librarian fellow (not pictured)