Moving Beyond the MLA & Deviant Modes of Scholarly Communication
Ultra-condensed research instruction

Discovery tools - locating citations for relevant literature; finding new and unexpected primary sources

Online text collections - what type of full text resources exist online for German lit
Moving beyond the MLA

- Journals unassigned
- Indexing lag due to volunteer nature
- Infrequent updates
- Scope
- Ignores book reviews by policy
Alternatives for Germanistik

- Bibliographie der deutschen Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft (BdSL, aka Eppelsheimer/Köttelwesch)
- IBZ - but few libraries have this
- Mega-databases: Expanded Academic, Academic Search Premier, ProQuest Research Database
- Periodicals Index Online
More alternatives

- KVK - Karlsruher Virtueller Katalog
- VD16, VD17, VD18 (planned) and similar
- Creative uses for WorldCat - finding translations, contents, etc.
- IDZ - Index Deutschsprachiger Zeitschriften 1750 - 1815
- KLG - Das Kritische Lexikon zur deutschsprachigen Gegenwartsliteratur: the messy red binders
And, yes, Google

- Machine indexing is very powerful
- Faster than any indexers out there
- Locates the obscure and remote without prejudice
- Try Google Scholar - I want to hate it, but just can’t
- Ditto for Google Books
The Sophie Journal example

- Not indexed anywhere
- What options are there besides mass Web indexes?
Print resources

- “We’re not dead yet”
- Still useful for more obscure topics
- *Germanistik*
- Check online before suffering: many are online or headed there
- Don’t forget lowly microforms; still popular in Germany (Gerritsen, BdL, etc.)
Online text collections

- Journals
- Reference works
- Primary texts
Journal literature

- Far more titles online than five years ago
- Easily accessible if your library offers links (huh what?)
- Downside: most humanities journals bound up in fee-based services
- “German JSTOR” - Digizeitschriften
Reference works

- DFG funding has created a boon
  - Grimm Wörterbuch
  - ADB, NDB
  - Lexer, Zedler, Adelung

- German publishers put obstacles in path
  - xipolis and Kindlers
  - Driven by print sales, not end-user needs
Primary texts

- Most freely available
- Hard to find (the silo problem)
- Questions of citability, reliability, authority, etc.

Various sources
- GDZ in Göttingen
- Bayerische Staatsbibliothek
- Projekt Gutenberg
- et al.
Deviant modes of scholarly communication

Some assumptions

- Medium has no bearing on quality
- Digital preservation is a problem that will be and is being solved
- Open access should be the ultimate goal of all scholarly journals

  - Suber definition: Open-access literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions
Open access

- Make all articles published available to all readers, free of charge, from day one
- Shift revenue stream from subscriptions to article processing fees, aka author fees (≠ vanity publishing) and/or other revenue sources
- May not save universities any money, but will broaden access to scholarly information
Open access pioneers

- PLoS: Public Library of Science
- BioMed Central
- Highwire (selected titles)
- Numerous small, institution supported titles
- Advocacy: the BBB declarations, SPARC
Four core issues for journals

- Findability
- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Sustainability
Findability

- Adherence to standards: ISSN, DOI, OpenURL
- Identified in all relevant indices and directories
- Open to machine indexing: link and HTML structure must facilitate this
- Overexposure not really possible
Accessibility

Assuming one can find a citation, how does one get the text?

Ascending order of ease:

- Print only
- Online
- Online, free (and OpenURL compliant!)

Think beyond one’s immediate professional sphere
Affordability

- Your journals have cheap subscription prices, but that’s not the whole story (whose library can afford everything you want?)
- When serials are cut, humanities journals are also dropped “to share the pain”
- Serials prices do not scale; patterns must change
Sustainability

- Print journals give us comfort
- German Quarterly is 78 years old
- Can we expect, in 78 years, to find an article published online in 2006?
- We need to get over paper
Sustainability

- Technology is *not* the key issue or obstacle
- Must find revenue models that can sustain online projects – open access
- Scholars must change the ways they assess publications
Case studies

- Glossen
  - Online since 1997
  - Open access - although not in DOAJ
  - Partially indexed in the MLA
  - Readability issues
  - What has its impact been?

- Sophie Journal - what is its future?
Cyberinfrastructure

- 2006 ACLS report based on work done in 2004
- Unfortunate term, but the desire to plan a more digital future is laudable
  - Mandate open access for grant-funded research
  - Leadership from within the humanities
  - Encourage digital scholarship
  - Establish national centers
A proposal

- Found and support a Center for Humanities Journals
- 100% open access, high-quality journals
- Take the isolated orphans and give them the support of a not-for-profit publisher
- Independent, i.e.- not the pet project of one institution
The PKP/OJS platform

- Public Knowledge Project
- Online Journal Systems
  - Open source software
  - Complete life cycle
  - Used by > 800 journals already, every last title is open access
- Large community of peers already involved in this
Postcolonial Text

Vol 2, No 2 (2006)

Table of Contents

Articles
Like Cattle for Slaughter? Reading Nervous Conditions’ Pedagogical Interventions
Elizabeth A. Jackson
Histories of the Present: Reading Contemporary Singapore Novels between the Local and the Global
Philip Holden
The Junction Avenue Theatre Company’s Sophiatown and the Limits of National Oneness
Gugu Hlongwane
Amitav Ghosh and The Forgotten Army
Neelam A Maharaj
Deconstructing Home and Exile: The Subversive Politics of Tahar Ben Jelloun’s With Downcast Eyes
Salah M. Moukhili
Mans of Desire

K-State Libraries
Dale Askey
Thank you

- Link list:
  http://del.icio.us/daskey/wig
- daskey@ksu.edu
- dsa06513@gmail.com (chat, too)