Managing Your Research

Literature Reviews

Definition: a verbal map of the relationships in the field you are studying; a description of the existing conversation

Borges' Library of Babel

- Six sides everywhere. Infinite in size. Every book uniformly the same.
- http://libraryofbabel.info/
- Infinite means every book that could exist (even your dissertation) is there!
- There's one book that is the distillation of all OTHER books

Kenneth Burke's Parlor

- Scholarship is an existing conversation that you are joining... and that is never finished
- Fear: someone else will steal your idea
- Think of your work as an iterative process

The architecture of scholarship

- You can't relive events... you need to look through the views of others

Experience sharing

- Zotero software has improved a lot in the last two years!
- Previous experience with Zotero was not good due to the need for manual entry of metadata on sources
- Tracking versions of thesis drafts can be challenging if you don't plan it out with a system
- Non-English sources are more difficult to work with (metadata)
- Choosing WHICH sources to use in support of your argument
- Primary source management for ancient history is challenging!
- Remember to save
- Always fearful of losing physical notes (stickies, notebooks)

Stories

Stacy Allison-Cassin

- 10 years on dissertation (part time)
  - Tip: keep track of your process
  - Tip: keep track of your citations
- Path shifted as she wrote

Scott McLaren

- Dearth
  - Your supervisor and committee don't know everything
    - Learn to be an independent researcher: you are the expert
- Deluge
  - You will find every rabbit hole and interesting tangent that exists!
    - Imagine you have a mental parking lot. Fill it with the interesting tidbits

The opposite shore

- At some point during the swim, you realize you can't see the beach OR the other side of the ocean!
  - ...but keep swimming!

Managing sources

- Norda sees many systems for managing sources. There is no one way!
- Zotero is a free, open source tool for managing sources
  - Collect and organize citations
    - Create sub-folders to organize
  - Store PDFs and web snapshots
    - Plugins for web browsers help here
  - Plugins for citing in Word and Google Docs
  - Collaborate
    - Group libraries
    - Public collections
  - Pull annotations and highlights out of PDF files
  - Concept mapping
    - You can tag items
      - Tags can be keywords, reminders ("TO READ") or anything else
      - Some items will be imported with tags from source databases
    - You can add text notes to each source
    - Can "link" related items together
- Tropy is a desktop application for managing photographs
  - Organize your images and add metadata for citation
  - Track the pics you take with your phone while in the archives
  - Add tags, keywords, transcriptions and search them
- Web-based sources
  - Sites are FRAGILE - they disappear
  - A tool called WebRecorder make archives of interactive sites
  - The Wayback Machine lets you see Internet Archives captures of a site over time
  - When you find a site you think you'll use, you can tell the Internet Archive to grab a copy of it that you can then see at a permanent link

Considering copyright & permissions

- Be aware of whether or not you need to clear copyright for your materials that will appear in your published MRP or dissertation
- Your dissertation will end up publicly available at LAC
- Work with archival materials may also require clearances if you want to reproduce them in our output
  - As you collect materials, make note of copyright information (you never know what you might want to use later)
- YOU hold copyright on YOUR thesis. You will be asked to provide permission (a non-exclusive license) for York and Library and Archives Canada to share your work

Fruitful detours (other discussions you can have with the library)

- Turning a chapter into an article
- Multimodal approaches
- Consider your reputation or career as a scholar: post conference slides online, post transcripts of your talks or comps materials
- Turning your thesis into a book

How else can you make scholarship visible?

- Store your MRP in YorkSpace
- Get an ORCID
- Go to conferences
  - Don't miss the banquets! Easy, comfortable way to meet the people near you
- Twitter
- Profile on History dept website
- ActiveHistory.ca
- Personal website
- Join associations
  - CHA is important but also big (hard to get over fear of meeting people)
  - There are many other small history associations with more specific focus
  - Many have student discounts or free student memberships

Fear: you will miss something critical in your work, and will find out about it in your defence

- When am I done?
- How do I pare my work down when it's too big?