

A Visualization Interface, Digital Humanities, and National Library Digital Sound Recording Collections: A Report of CAML 2014 Session A

By Alana Skwarok

CAML Session A: Thursday, May 29, 2014

Audrey Laplante, Dominic Forest, Rémy Kessler (Université de Montréal): “Encore des mots, toujours des mots: A Visualization Interface for Exploring a Large Collection of French Songs”

Stacy Allison-Cassin, David Montgomery (York University): “Digital Humanities and Music”

Sophie Rondeau (CBC Winnipeg): “The Sounds inside the Library Walls: An Examination of Three National Library Digital Sound Recording Collections”

Audrey Laplante (Université de Montréal) opened the morning session with a paper she co-authored with Dominic Forest and Rémy Kessler (Université de Montréal; in absentia). She presented their methodology and results related to the creation of a music visualization interface for French-language songs based on lyrics. In harvesting lyrics and metadata from the Internet, their research aimed to study the social tagging of francophone music as well as study how independent record labels in Quebec use social media to promote artists. Their resulting interface allows for information retrieval and visualization, and will act as an excellent resource for researchers looking to find songs based on a particular topic and to study the themes within a particular collection of songs.

The following presentation was from Stacy Allison-Cassin and David Montgomery (York University). Allison-Cassin and Montgomery began their session by giving a quick overview of issues related to Digital Humanities and music, and discussed roles librarians can take in order to effectively engage with Digital Humanities scholarship. They also shared their experiences in receiving and digitizing the John Arpin Sheet Music Collection, which included 150,000 items of vintage, original sheet music. They described how the Digital Humanities community stresses the idea of collaboration, both in the sharing of resources and open source tools, and in overcoming potential silos that exist within academia.

Rounding off the session was Sophie Rondeau (Syracuse University) with an analysis of three national library digital sound recording collections. Rondeau examined the scope, development, and management of the following collections: Library and Archives Canada’s [Virtual Gramophone](#), the Library of Congress’ [National Jukebox](#), and [British Library Sounds](#). Her analysis of the collections included the quality of the digitized audio, interface design and usability, and reference and instructional services. Rondeau’s related paper is included in this issue of *CAML Review*.

Alana Skwarok is a Reference Librarian at the MacOdrum Library of Carleton University. Her subject specializations include Art History, Film Studies, and Music.