

Toward modeling the social edition: An approach to understanding the electronic scholarly edition in the context of new and emerging social media.

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# Toward modeling the *social* edition: An approach to understanding the electronic scholarly edition in the context of new and emerging social media

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*Literary and Linguistic Computing*, Volume 27, Issue 4, 1 December 2012, Pages 445–461, <https://doi.org/10.1093/llc/fqs013>

**Published:** 23 October 2012

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## Abstract

This article explores building blocks in extant and emerging social media toward the possibilities they offer to the scholarly edition in electronic form, positing that we are witnessing the nascent stages of a new ‘social’ edition existing at the intersection of social media and digital editing. Beginning with a typological formulation of electronic scholarly editions, activities common to humanities scholars who engage with texts as expert readers are considered, noting that many methods of engagement both reflect the interrelated nature of long-standing professional reading strategies and are social in nature; extending this framework, the next steps in the scholarly edition’s development in its incorporation of social media functionality reflect the importance of traditional humanistic activities and workflows, and include collaboration, incorporating contributions by its readers and re-visioning the role of the editor away from that of ultimate authority and more toward that of facilitator of reader involvement. Intended to provide a ‘toolkit’ for academic consideration, this discussion of the emerging social edition points to new methods of textual engagement in digital literary studies and is accompanied by two integral, detailed appendices, published in *Digital Humanities Quarterly* under the title ‘Pertinent discussions toward modeling the *social* edition: Annotated bibliographies’ (<http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/6/1/000111/000111.html>): one addressing issues pertinent to online reading and interaction, and another on social networking tools.

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Online ISSN 2055-768X

Print ISSN 2055-7671

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