Film, Theather & Performing Arts

Title: Life, Love, and Programming: The Culture and Politics of WALL-E and Pixar Computer Animation
Author: Eric Herhuth
Source: Cinema Journal, Vol. 53, No. 4, Summer 2014, pp. 53-75
Abstract: Given Pixar’s initial standardization of computer-animated feature films, this article examines the studio’s relation to digital modernization and to animation’s legacy of subversion through an analysis of WALL-E (Andrew Stanton, 2008). The film exemplifies themes of modernization and subversion, and it demonstrates how a playful alienation of naturalized norms can distract from the narrative’s perpetuation of specific cultural values and practices. The narrative of WALL-E gives essentialist status to liberal desire and heterosexuality through robot characters presented in juxtaposition to consumerist, infantile, human characters. The portrayal of these sociocultural norms within the fictional space of the film (both on Earth and in outer space) is compounded by the playful space of animation itself. Pixar’s computer animation, if represented by WALL-E, presents itself as free for the essence of technology and the human to emerge but simultaneously functions as a space for precise control that is a corollary to the proliferation of programmed, algorithmic media.

Database: Project Muse

Title: New Vistas? Aboriginal animation and digital dreams at the National Film Board of Canada
Author: Jennifer Gauthier
Abstract: This paper argues that Canada’s National Film Board (NFB) is moving away from its commitment to Aboriginal media production to focus on its global reputation as a leader in digital media. A case study of animated short films from the 2009 ‘Vistas’ series by Aboriginal film-makers highlights the NFB’s changing priorities. Made for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, this series of films is decidedly apolitical in comparison to other Aboriginal films made at the NFB. Rather than facilitating cultural regeneration or challenging national identity, as did the films of the Indian Film Crew in the 1960s, the Vistas series serves to commodify Aboriginal culture and promote Canada as a cosmopolitan destination for businesses and tourists.

Database: Routledge [Taylor & Francis]

Television & Radio

Title: Digital TV innovations: industry and user perspective
Author: Iris Jennes & Wendy Van den Broech
Source: Info, Vol. 16, Issue 6, 2014 [Published online]
Abstract: In this paper we will focus on how innovative strategies take users into account. On the one hand we will look at how the different stakeholders in the TV value network implement user behaviour. On the other hand we will focus on how users perceive traditional advertising and new advertising formats (e.g. personalised advertising, interactive advertising). The applied research method is a combination of expert interviews with different actors in the TV-sector and qualitative user research on viewers’ expectations towards advertising and new advertising formats in a digital era. We look at customer ownership, (inter-media) audience fragmentation and audience autonomy as important concepts in understanding innovation and strategies within the Flemish commercial TV sector and how user behaviour is implemented. More specifically, ad skipping (zipping) and second screen applications are studied. To conclude, the findings of the research are linked to relevant policy questions and challenges for audience members and actors within the television industry.

Database: Emerald Insight

Title: Adapting heritage: Class and conservatism in Downton Abbey
Author: Katherine Byrne
Abstract: The huge success of ITV’s neo-Edwardian Downton Abbey, which has recently completed its third series on British television and is currently being shown in the US, displays the continuing, and indeed increasing, popularity of heritage television for the contemporary audience. This essay examines the ways in which Downton provides a sanitised, yet seemingly ‘authentic’, portrait of a period of instability and rapid change, which its writers have identified as having much in common with our own present. I explore here the ways Downton comments on that present, through its portrayal of a house and its inhabitants, which function as a state in microcosm. This drama can be considered, in de Groot’s definition, ‘post-heritage’ in its innovative and self-conscious post-modernism, but, as I will discuss, it simultaneously recalls the Thatcherite roots of more traditional heritage in its conservative representation of class. Through an examination of these issues, and
with close attention to the servant/employer relationships that are key to the narrative, I will explore the version of the past offered by Downton, its intertextual and complex relationship with the heritage tradition, and its at times confused and contradictory social ideology.
by famine, dislocation, disease, and other disasters of both natural and social causes. Such hardships would have been consistent with apocalyptic omens in the Buddhist repertoire portending the advent of Maitreya. Understanding Srivichai in this millenarian context helps to explain both the hopes of the populace and the fears of the state during that tumultuous decade.

Database: Cambridge Journal

**Library Science & Publishing**

Title: Reinventing appraisal
Author: Kate Cumming & Anne Picot
Source: Archives and Manuscripts, Vol. 42, Issue 2, 2014 [Published online: 30 Jul]
Abstract: In 1986 David Bearman first put the argument that core archival methods of appraisal, description, preservation and access were fundamentally unable to cope with the volumes of records archivists were required to process. He called on the archival profession to completely reinvent its core methods. Noting similar challenges for archival methods in evolving digital business environments, this paper explores how the archival method of appraisal could be reinvented.

Database: Routledge [Taylor & Francis]

Title: The Advantages of Incorporating Historical Geographic Information Systems (H-GIS) into Modern Coastal Management Planning
Author: Michael Reid
Source: Journal of Map & Geography Libraries: Advances in Geospatial Information, Collections & Archives, Vol. 10, Issue 2, 2014 [Published online: 23 Jul]
Abstract: As the terrestrial and marine effects of climate change continue to intensify, the value of natural habitats as a form of protection against a variety of ecological issues is becoming clear. Coastal wetlands, for example, provide protection against incoming storm surges and extreme weather, serve to improve water quality through the sequestration of various pollutants, and offer serious potential as a new source of biofuel. Unfortunately, many of the areas that have been affected by coastal habitat loss still suffer from the same problems that caused those ecosystems to change in the first place. Cities continue to release effluence into estuaries; hydrological engineering projects continue to redirect waterways that change flow and sediment patterns; and increasing populations in coastal areas all assert significant pressures on intertidal ecosystems. This ongoing changing of the landscape-and the length of time that anthropogenic factors have been influencing these habitats-has made modern-day environmental planning and management important yet complicated pursuits. As a result, planners and managers must constantly look for new tools to better understand their environment. Incorporating historically derived environmental data into
geographic information systems (GIS) can enhance the quality of ecological models, which subsequently offers environmental planners and managers with a more robust understanding of the ecosystems encompassed within their project areas.

Title: **Measuring service quality at Tehran University of Medical Sciences' Libraries.**
Author: Amirhosein Mardani, Soheila Alavi, & Mohsen Nazarzadeh Zare
Source: *Library Philosophy & Practice*, 2014, pp. 2-15
Abstract: Using the Libqual+ model, the present study aims to compare the viewpoints of students and librarians in the Tehran's Medical Sciences University to determine the quality of library services. The results show that the users consider the current quality of services lower than what the librarians consider them to be. This difference of opinion is much more drastic when examining the information control subscale. Service superiority gap was estimated to be -2.14 for the overall library services under study and the said libraries fall fairly short of providing users with the desired level of services. From the users' point of view, the three subscales of Libqual+ do not have an equal effect on the quality of the provided services whereas the librarians all agree with an equal effectiveness of the subscales. The librarians have a correct understanding of the users' expectations and the gap between the users' expectations and the librarians' perceptions of their needs and demands is very small (0.18).

Title: **Public library staff’s perceived value and satisfaction of an open source library system**
Author: Barbara Albee & Hsin-Liang Chen
Abstract: The purpose of this study is to examine public library staff attitudes towards an open-source library automation system in the state of Indiana. The researchers were interested in understanding the library staff’s perceptions of the value of the system in performing their job duties and improving library services. The researchers travelled to nine public libraries every three months to survey library staff from January to December 2010. The participants completed the surveys at the libraries and were given the option to remain anonymous. The survey consisted of six questions regarding the use of the Evergreen system for work processes and basic demographic information of the staff. There were a total of 323 survey respondents. Of the 323 respondents, 57 (17.65 per cent) used the Evergreen system in their daily work routines at the library. The primary benefits reported were: ability to check the availability of library materials at other Evergreen libraries via the shared catalogue, the Evergreen system provided more functionality than their previous library automation systems and the ability to reserve materials for patrons. This was a convenience sample. All survey participants provided their responses voluntarily during the 12-month study period. A more comprehensive sampling procedure should be considered in the future. The
study indicated the need for improvements in the Evergreen Indiana system. Those improvements were also relevant to other open-source integrated library systems.

Database: Emerald Insight