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# Digital Humanists and Big (platform) Shoes to Fill

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# Digital Humanists and Big (platform) Shoes to Fill

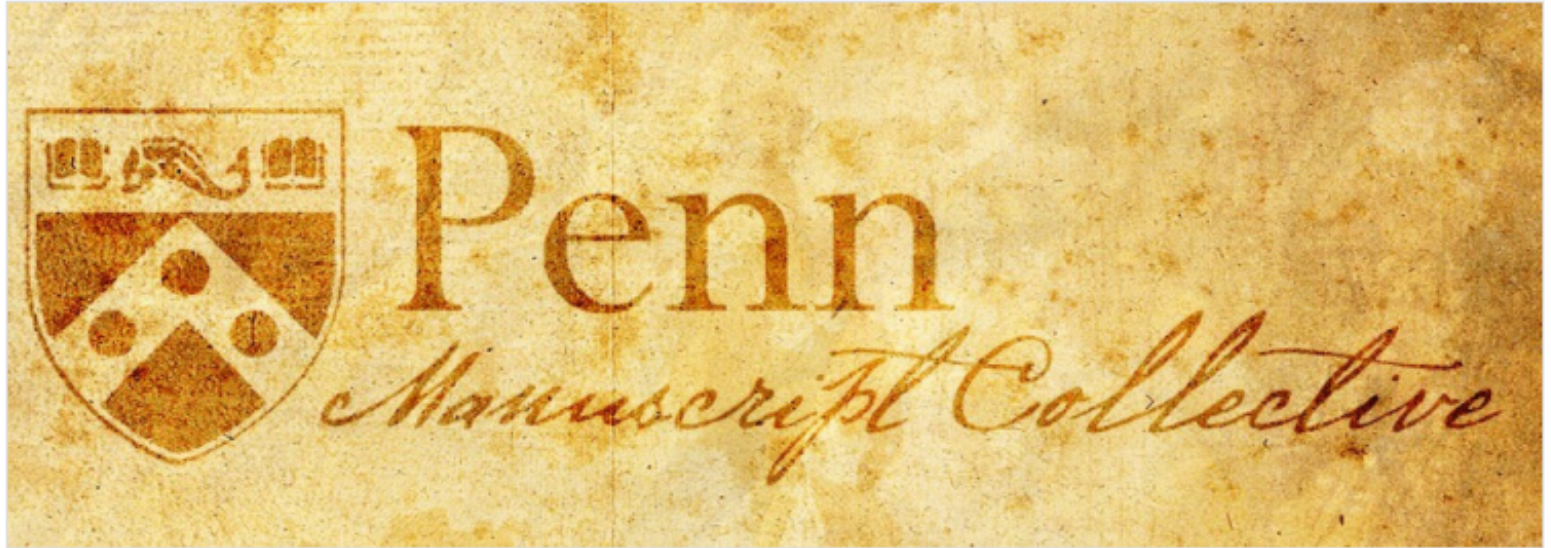
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08 Tuesday Oct  
2013

## *Digital Humanists and big (platform) shoes to fill*

POSTED BY JOHN BARANIK IN UNCATEGORIZED

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On Friday the 27th, I attended a [Penn Digital Humanities Forum](#) event, "[Crowdsourcing and the Rise of the Digital Humanist](#)." Featuring Ben Vershbow from [New York Public Library Labs](#), [Jen Wolfe](#) from University of Iowa Libraries' [DIY History](#), and [Tim Causer](#) from University College London's [Transcribe Bentham](#), this event provided a space for leaders in digital humanities crowdsourcing to share the products of their labor and the lessons they learned in the process.



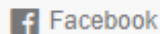
After months of thinking about a platform—considering costs, talking about web space, wondering where the money for a server will come from—we have begun to work with staff from the library to incorporate the work of the Manuscript Collective onto Penn's own [library website](#). To this end, we now have a [page](#): though blank now, we will begin to upload work to this site. Penn will use [Omeka](#), along with a suite of plug-ins, to meet our needs in this online space. In addition

along with a suite of plug-ins, to meet our needs in this online space. In addition to hosting content and exhibits, we plan to this website for crowdsourcing: after seeing some incredible work being done by the University of Iowa's [DIY History](#) project to [crowdsource transcriptions](#), we plan to use a similar model at Penn. Iowa's platform and DIY History project are the sum of years of hard work, and while we at the Manuscript Collective do not expect to have a polished project like theirs immediately, we will implement their successful strategies—as Jen Wolfe put it, "Crowdsourcing tip #1: Don't reinvent the wheel."

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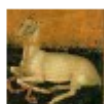
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