Materialities of Writing
Works-in-Progress Symposium

Presentations & discussion
Weds, Dec 6
2-4:30pm
501 Cathedral of Learning

Ryan McDermott, “Interactive Reading by Professional Scribes”
2:15-3:00
Marginalia can give us a sense of how readers respond to books. In manuscript culture, scribes are readers at the same time that they are producers of text. One scribe of a medieval playtext in a fifteenth-century household manuscript was a particularly involved and creative participant in the work he or she copied. This is a speculative explanation of what this eccentric scribe was up to.

Katie Bird, “Writing with Video: Videographic Play as Embodied Research”
3:00-3:45
This presentation includes selections from Katie’s video work, describes her videographic research process, and discusses how these kinds of alternative writing tools can be thoughtfully integrated as scholarly writing.

Matthew Lavin, “Textures of Taste: Uncovering the Material and Linguistic Codes of Historical Book Reviews”
3:45-4:30
Digital humanities methods present an opportunity to revisit histories of reading practices, reader response, and literary taste-making. Using a proof-of-concept dataset of approximately 1,000 New York Times book reviews from 1905, Lavin’s presentation focuses on how the perceived gender of the reviewed book's author shaped trends for evaluating and characterizing literary work.

Please join us for a lively, transhistorical symposium focused on different materialities of writing: manuscripts, video, and print.

Associated with Annette Vee’s Materialities of Writing graduate course (EngLit 2570), and the English Literature Media and Material Practices Focal Area.

Snacks will be served!