Enhancing Humanities Knowledge Production in the 21st Century: Research and Practice among IU’s Scholarly Humanities Journals

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Using as our data both the 100-plus years of archival content and the ongoing work of more than a dozen humanities journals edited and produced here on campus, we examine critically the process of generating and interpreting ideas in the humanities. Specifically, our research program traces the changing profile of humanities knowledge as it progresses in stages through its…

Conception: How do we conceive our questions?
Expression/Articulation: How do we narrate their answers?
Dissemination/Publication: How do we produce, design, distribute, and promote our narrations?
Recovery/Interpretation: How do we access, use, and interpret these productions?
Evaluation/Results: How do we measure the worth and impact of our efforts, based on their use?

In a manner not unlike the faculty of an academic medical center, the members of the research team—many of them editors, others scholars in and of the digital humanities, will use the internationally recognized professional journal work carried out at IU as both the basis for, and the eventual beneficiary of, their scholarly research. Their access to ideas as they develop from conception to dissemination offers valuable data for research on the changing process of humanities knowledge production. The conclusions that they generate from those data, in turn, will enable us to improve our practice—to establish more robust and creative standards and practices with which to sustain humanities publishing in a digital age. In improving their practice, finally, they provide ourselves new opportunities for both teaching and public outreach, here on campus and beyond.