

## DOSSIER - DIGITAL LITERATURE IN ENGLISH: AN INTERCULTURAL/TRANSLITERARY APPROACH

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The English language has been a forerunner in the dissemination of digital textualities and their literary possibilities. Showcases of electronic literature, such as the Electronic Literature Organization or the ELMCIP Electronic Literature Knowledge Base have a majority of contributors who write their work in English. However, the field of electronic literature has interested researchers all over the world, and very often the English language becomes a lingua Franca at the hands of non-native English speakers who decide to create and reflect in English.

The authors of this dossier have something in common, they are all located in Europe but their interest in digital literature has opened them up to the field of electronic literature in English. *Texto Digital* has allowed them to present here their particular perspective on the evolution of the field. It comes as no surprise that this European perspective has placed special emphasis on topics which bring to the fore the blurring of cultural and literary boundaries. This dossier offers five articles covering a variety of themes: visual poetry, feminist hypertexts, poetry blogs, digital literature translation and a study of reading and writing on digital devices. From these reading emerges a sort of transliterary approach, which dynamites national and generic boundaries, inviting the reader to reflect to what extent the digital medium helps both to transcend and to reinforce particular literary traditions and cultures.

Taken as a whole, these articles promote a comparative literature perspective which underscores, not the differences and demarcations, but the fusions, the borrowings, the mixtures which overflow cyberspace and form its characteristic

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virtual landscapes. There is also the common purpose of establishing bridges to seamlessly integrate electronic literature in the academic institutions.

In my contribution, “The Mechanic Eye”, I have tried to offer a revision of North American visual poetry from the perspective of digital culture. It explores those internal drives or mechanisms that connect visual poetry manifestations through different time periods, aesthetic currents, cultural functions and mediums.

Maya Zabildea, in her article “Exploiting Hypertext’s Potential for Teaching Gender Studies”, enthusiastically exposes hypertext’ intrinsic characteristics and the way in which feminist electronic literature can contribute to the study of gender theories and feminist literature.

In “Writing Out, Reading In”, Laura de la Parra initiates us into the world of young blogging poets, and their native wonderings through the web. She exposes the way in which these authors construct their “Internet poetic persona”, a performance that inverts the traditional logic that print comes first, and in which the reader’s voyeuristic instinct becomes also an active participant.

Laura Borràs and Giovanna di Rosario, in their article entitled “Translating Digital Literature: two experiences and a reflection”, share with us their experiences translating digital literature in English and French into Catalan, Spanish or Italian. They have explored the different dimensions that take part in translating a multimedia electronic text, using the digital medium’s potential for transforming such arduous task into a collaborative enterprise

Closing this brief dossier comes the article “Alice through the Computer Screen: A Study of Literary Reading and Writing on Digital Displays”, which presents a summary and a series of conclusions drawn from the experiences carried out by the research group LEETHI and designed to study the reader’s adaptation to digital displays in three different modes of reading: intensive reading through the computer screen, extended reading in e-readers and tablet PCs, and creative digital reading and writing.

I would like to thank heartily all the contributors to this dossier. I know they have all worked in extreme conditions. In periods of crisis and material scarcity, time becomes the most valuable resource at our command. I really appreciate their generosity and I hope both readers and authors are satisfied with the result.

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