Media Inventories of the Nineteenth Century

Fri., Feb. 21 | 9 a.m. — 5 p.m. Memorial Union S204
Sat., Feb. 22 | 8:30 a.m. — Noon Memorial Union S304

Notions of inventoring lend themselves well to conceptualizing essential features of nineteenth-century culture for a number of reasons. Inventory can be both a verb and a noun (“to inventory” as well as “an inventory”), and inventories can refer to various processes of taking stock, storing, finding, or discovering, but also to concrete lists, catalogues, or registries. Our broader goal in this workshop is to address how media are paradigmatically involved in techniques of inventorying as well as to move towards something of an inventory (or plural inventories) of nineteenth-century media.

By focusing on the nineteenth century, we seek to fill a gap in certain canonical media histories that tend to posit the beginning and end of the nineteenth century as transformative turning points and neglect intervening developments.

In this workshop, we want to reflect more on transformations throughout the century, conceptualizing the period as one of multivalent and multidirectional development rather than one simply of stasis intervening between epistemic and technological breaks.

Please note: several presentations will discuss pre-circulated materials. Please contact Sean Franzel for these materials and for additional information by emailing franzels@marchi.edu.

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