

# DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP RESEARCH AT UNB



The Internet of Things. The Connected Generation. The Digital Society. Ours is a civilization increasingly enabled and defined by digital technology.

The University of New Brunswick (UNB) has been involved in the practice and development of digital scholarship for two decades, and was an early pioneer in North America for online research. UNB Libraries' Centre for Digital Scholarship (CDS) supports digital

scholarship activities at UNB in many ways – from digital asset creation to managing and hosting of scholarly content. CDS has created 1.5 million digital objects over the last three years alone, and hosts numerous scholarly journals, the UNB Scholar Research Repository, and various domain-specific databases and research portals.

A major interdisciplinary, inter-university research project, led by UNB, exemplifies the possibilities presented by digital scholarship tools and methods. The first phase of the project involved the digitization of 500,000 pages of Acadian and Loyalist texts published in New Brunswick newspapers from 1880 to 1940. The second phase utilizes textual analysis software designed to explore and compare the words and themes representative of the collective identity of the Loyalist and Acadian populations of New Brunswick, as discernable in public discourse. Digital tools for scholarship in the humanities are not limited to textual analysis. Historians at UNB are using geographic information system (GIS) software – in collaboration with UNB's Maps/GIS librarian – to explore spatial questions within their research, and for presentation of historical arguments and findings.

In some cases, the creation of the asset itself is the objective of the researcher, as in the considerable effort led by the Canada Research Chair in Atlantic

Canada Studies to build a fully-searchable database of early British North American legislative documents.

As part of its contribution to international scholarship, UNB is creating a repository of digitized historically-significant source materials from its Archives and Special Collections. The Ward Chipman Slavery Brief, the Winslow Papers, the Benjamin Marston Diary, and its extensive collection of historic New Brunswick newspapers are just a few examples. Often, in dealing with historical texts, not only are facsimile images captured for the database, but an additional step is taken to provide a digital version of the textual content, this permits meaningful textual search and analysis to be carried out by researchers. Some documents require annotations, such as the *Aboriginal Land Petitions in New Brunswick, 1786-1878*, digitized for UNB historical research. In this and other cases, great care is taken to represent the original as accurately as possible, and many annotations are used to indicate damaged or illegible words, edits by the original author, and other important features.

## Research Focus Areas

Digital Research Delivery Modes	Digital Scholarship Activities
Publication	Asset Development
Databases/ Portals	Computer-aided Analysis
Courseware or Presentation	Asset Management

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Digital scholarly journals hosted by UNB

# 500,000

Pages of Acadian and Loyalist news content have been digitized for textual analysis

# Digital Access

To unique and historically-significant documents from UNB's Archives and Special Collections is enhancing research opportunities

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Faculties and Departments pursuing research in this area

- **Arts (Fredericton)**
  - Culture and Media Studies
  - English
  - French
  - History
- **Arts (Saint John)**
  - History and Politics
  - Humanities and Languages

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Facilities and Groups conducting research in this area

- **Institutes and Centres**
  - Atlantic Canada Studies Centre
- **Research Groups**
  - Centre for Enhanced Teaching and Learning (CETL) / Media Lab
  - UNB Libraries' Centre for Digital Scholarship (CDS)
- **Digital Academic Journals**
  - Acadiensis
  - Antistasis
  - Atlantic Geology
  - Canadian Journal of Applied Linguistics
  - Florilegium
  - Journal of Comparative International Management
  - Journal of Conflict Studies
  - Journal of New Brunswick Studies / Revue d'études sur le Nouveau-Brunswick
  - Journal of Student Writing
  - Labour / Le Travail
  - Studies in Canadian Literature / Études en littérature canadienne
  - TimePieces
- **Digital Literary Magazines**
  - The Fiddlehead
  - QWERTY

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Research Chairs engaging in research in this area

- **Canada Research Chair**
  - Atlantic Canada Studies