



COMPUTATIONAL LITERARY STUDIES

WITH PROFESSOR
KATHERINE BODE

Talking points

COMPREHENSION

1. How did newspapers in Australia participate in “mapping out the world”?
2. What is meant by “participatory literary history”?

ANALYSIS

3. What might motivate people to contribute to literature databases like “To be continued”?
4. How is communication in literature different to, for example, scientific writing? How might its meaning change over time?
5. How has computing enabled researchers to analyse literature in new ways?
6. Why do you think one author once said that Australian literature was “chronically belated”? Does the evidence back up this idea?

EVALUATION

7. To what extent do you believe digital archives are a good way to involve a diverse range of people in literature?
8. Do you think that literature that contains offensive language or themes (e.g. racist, sexist) should still be read and studied? Why/why not?

CREATIVITY

9. Can you imagine a future form of literature that changes depending on who is reading it or where/when it is being read? What form does that literature take?
10. How would you design a digital platform for accessing literature and creating new stories?
11. What computational literary research questions would you be interested to know the answer to?

Activity

A Christmas Comparison

- Visit the “To be Continued” database:
<https://cdhrdatasys.anu.edu.au/tobecontinued/>
- Explore the website, and check out the search function.
- Use the database search to find two Christmas stories: one by an Australian author and one by an author in the northern hemisphere. Take a note of the publication dates and which newspapers they were in.
- Read and compare the stories: how do they portray Christmas? What do you think you can learn about Australian culture from your comparison?

More resources

- Find out more about Katherine and her work at her website:
www.katherinebode.wordpress.com
- To read more about how digital technologies are impacting fiction and reading, visit the Digital Literary Literacy website:
www.digitalliteraryliteracy.com
- The Australian National University, where Katherine is based, hosts a wide range of events. Its website also hosts videos and podcasts:
www.anu.edu.au/events
- The National Library of Australia hosts a huge catalogue of literature, including Indigenous Australian literature:
www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/finding-australian-literature/indigenous
- Creative Spirits helps you explore books on Australian Aboriginal culture and history: www.creativespirits.info/resources/books