# Literary and Linguistic Computing

## Report for ALLC committee meeting

Marilyn Deegan, Editor-in-Chief, 12 December 2007

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## 1. Copy

I reported in June that copy was slower coming in than last year, but this seems to have corrected, and we are getting quite a good flow of unsolicited papers through, We also have plenty of good material from the conferences, and many book reviews coming through. The Reviews Editors are also commissioning more review articles.

## 2. Focus of the journal

I am including here the material that I put together on the focus of the journal for the June meeting, as we didn't get any feedback. I don't think that this needs to be discussed at the meeting if time is pressing, but I would be very grateful if people could give it some thought and send views to me or anyone else in the editorial team. One issue that isn't discussed below because it has only come up recently—now that SDH/SEMI has joined ADHO formally, what effect does the fact that they are a bilingual organization have on *LLC?*

The editorial team has been having some discussions about the scope of the journal, which we have discussed this in the past between ourselves and with the committees, in particular the ALLC committee as the issue was one which we have been talking about since before *CHUM* was dropped. We haven't come to any firm conclusions, but we feel that it is time to raise the issue again. Historically, the journal did what the original title suggests: it published articles on literary and linguistic computing, with a good deal of focus on text analysis, authorship studies, corpus linguistics. It tended to steer clear of 'hard' computational linguistics. But the ALLC has changed focus over the years, as the use of computers in the humanities extended, and the journal extended its remit. When I took over in 1996, I wanted to extend the remit even further, and we have often had discussions about just how far that should go. We do tend still to focus on text primarily, we don't publish too much on music, art, archaeology, or even history. When we had discussions with *DHQ* at the start, we felt that perhaps *DHQ* would publish work that lends itself more naturally to a more dynamic online presentation—perhaps with some kind of interactive components. Looking at the first issue of *DHQ*, there is nothing there that couldn't have worked for *LLC* (though some of the colour images would have been printed as

B&W in the paper journal).  This is in no way a criticism, merely a comment.  *DHQ* has achieved a very high standard in a very short time.

We do need to consider how we define ourselves now, and how we relate to what *DHQ* publishes.  What do we mean by 'digital scholarship' in the humanities in our journal title?  Who should be defining this? Many of our authors still see us as a journal that does the things we always did--we get many authorship and text analysis, computational linguistics etc.  Some of the papers are very specialized, and my feeling is that we should be publishing over a broad range that suits our readership.  I sometimes struggle very hard to find suitable reviewers for papers, which indicated to me that the appeal of them would be very narrow.  We do need fairly soon to agree a scope and a mission for the journal, and the editorial team really needs input from the Associations and the editorial board.
the editorial board etc.


## 3.  Publication of  papers from the DH conferences

A small team has been set up to discuss how publication of papers from conferences should be done in the future. The members of the team are myself, Julia Flanders, Ray Siemens, and Gary Shawver. We now have three journals that can potentially accept publications, and the practice in the past has been that there is a printed journal collection deriving from each conference.  We want to make sure that all publishable submissions find a home in one of the journals. It used to be that *LLC* took papers when ALLC hosted the conference, and *CHUM* took the papers when ACH hosted.  Since *CHUM* was unadopted, *LLC* has been taking a formal collection each year.  This year (2007, Urbana) the conference host and PC chair have solicited papers that will appear in both *LLC* and *DHQ*, and we are now having some discussions about how far any conference publication strategy should be formalized. We have only just started this process, and we will keep the various committees informed.


## 4.  Special issue: TEI@20

We would like to produce a special (extra) issue in 2008, with papers from the TEI@20 conference.  Edward Vanhoutte is representing the  *LLC* editorial team with the editors of the conference papers.  There were some outstanding contributions to the conference, and we are sure that a selection of these will make an outstanding volume.  I have asked OUP for a costing for the extra issue and am waiting to hear from them.  In the past these extra issues have cost around £5000.  We will need also to ask the ACH and SDH/SEMI for their formal permission, given that the funds will probably have to be top-sliced.