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THE CHALLENGES OF BORN-DIGITAL FICTION

Editions, Translations, and Emulations

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The Challenges of Born-Digital Fiction

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Abstract: *The Challenges of Born-Digital Fiction: Editions, Translations, and Emulations* addresses the growing concern about how best to maintain and extend the accessibility of early interactive novels and hypertext fiction or narratives. These forms of born-digital literature were produced before or shortly after the mainstreaming of the World Wide Web with proprietary software and on formats now obsolete. Preserving and extending them for a broad study by scholars of book culture, literary studies, and digital culture necessitate they are migrated, translated, and emulated – yet these activities can impact the integrity of the reader experience. Thus, this Element centers on three key challenges facing such efforts: (1) precision of references: identifying correct editions and versions of migrated works in scholarship; (2) enhanced media translation: approaching translation informed by the changing media context in a collaborative environment; and (3) media integrity: relying on emulation as the prime mode for long-term preservation of born-digital novels.

Keywords: Digital Preservation, Born-Digital Literature, Media Translation, Emulation, Migration, Collection

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