



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI BERGAMO

Dipartimento  
di Lingue, Letterature  
e Culture Straniere

# Towards a Library of Babel?

## Reflections on the (In)Completeness of Digital Archiving

28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

On site: Sant'Agostino, Aula 5 - Sala Conferenze

Online: <https://tinyurl.com/DigitalArchivesBG>

### 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022

2pm-2.30pm

Prof. Rossana Bonadei, Prof. Franco Giudice: Opening remarks

2.30pm-5.30pm

**First panel: What are digital archives? What cultural power do they have?**

*In our increasingly dematerialised world, digital libraries consortia store millions and millions of books, to the point where national archives are supposed to hold a (digital) copy of every book published annually. These extensive archives seem to embrace everything – is this really the case?*

*Chair:* Prof. Valeria Gennero

*Discussants:* Prof. Elena Bougleux, PhD Student Simone Abbiati

2.30pm-3.15pm

Dr Isabel Galina (National University of Mexico / University College London): **“The Illusion of Everything – Notions of Completeness in Digital National Library Collections”**

3.15pm-3.30pm

Questions & Answers

3.30pm-3.40pm

Coffee break

3.40pm-4.25pm

Mr Glen Layne-Worthey (University of Illinois / HathiTrust Digital Library): **“Billions of Borgesian ‘Infinitely Thin Pages’: The HathiTrust Digital Library”**

4.25pm-4.40pm

Questions & Answers

4.50pm-5.30pm

Final discussion

### 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

9.15am-12.15pm

**Second panel: How do we start creating digital archives? Do we ever ‘finish’?**

*By focusing on specific archival cases, we are going to discuss the technical and philosophical implications of creating a digital archive. Who is responsible for the creation and maintenance of such an archive? What steps do they take? How do their choices impact the cultural power archives hold?*

*Chair:* Prof. Flaminia Nicora

*Discussants:* Dr Mario Verdicchio, PhD Student Simone Abbiati



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- 9.15am-10am Prof. Francesca Tomasi (Università di Bologna): “**Semantic Modelling in Digital Cultural Archives**”
- 10am-10.15am Questions & Answers
- 10.15am-10.25am Coffee break
- 10.25am-11am Mr Huw Jones (University of Cambridge): “**The Sum of Its Parts: Selection, Intention and Naming in the Construction of the Digital Archive**”
- 11am-11.15am Questions & Answers
- 11.15am-11.25am Coffee break
- 11.25am-12.15pm Final discussion
- 12.15pm-2.30pm Lunch break
- 2.30pm-5.30pm Third panel: Using digital archives to conduct literary research**  
*Two literature researchers and creators of databases are going to illustrate how they use Digital Humanities to make literature more accessible. Digital tools can widen the lenses through which we have read certain classics so far: such is the case for the works of Virginia Woolf and Molière.*
- Chair:* Prof. Rossana Bonadei  
*Discussants:* Prof. Anna De Biasio, Prof. Fabio Scotto, PhD Students Marta Colleoni & Luca Pinelli
- 2.30pm-3.15pm Dr Elisa Bolchi (Università di Ferrara): “**ItalianWoolf Project: The Challenges of Digital Archiving**”
- 3.15pm-3.30pm Questions & Answers
- 3.30pm-3.40pm Coffee break
- 3.40pm-4.25pm Dr Christophe Schuwey (Yale University): “**Visualizing Molière and 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Culture Today**”
- 4.25pm-4.40pm Questions & Answers
- 4.40pm-4.50pm Coffee break
- 4.50pm-5.30pm Final discussion
- 5.30pm Prof. Rossana Bonadei: Closing remarks

*Scientific committee: Prof. Rossana Bonadei, Prof. Elena Bougleux, and Prof. Flaminia Nicora.  
Scientific and organising committee: PhD Students Simone Abbiati, Marta Colleoni, and Luca Pinelli.*