Born Digital Cultural Histories

Guest Editor:

Dr. Melanie Swalwell
Professor of Digital Media
Heritage, Centre for
Transformative Media
Technologies, Swinburne
University of Technology, PO Box
218, Hawthorn, VIC 3122,
Australia

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Whilst many artefacts today are produced, distributed and consumed solely in digital form, this situation is not completely new. Artefacts from previous eras have also been 'born' digital. The advent of micro- or home computers in the mid-1970s and 1980s, for instance, saw a range of digital artefacts produced, amongst them digital games, demos, a range of experimental art, and other early software. These objects are complex and interesting as are the preservation challenges they pose. While issues of hardware and software deterioration are arguably becoming better understood, the earliness with which decisions about significance and preservation strategies must be arrived at marks these artefacts out as different from other forms of cultural heritage.

Proposals might be theoretical, applied, policy, or otherwise oriented. Case studies of innovative practices, papers based on research with born digital artefacts, and new institutional approaches are equally welcome.

Dr. Melanie Swalwell
Guest Editor

Special Issue

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Andrew M. Nedd
Department of Art History,
Savannah College of Art and
Design, Savannah, GA 31402, USA

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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