

Showcase of the Consortium on Electronic Literature

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As a literary genre, electronic literature (E-Lit) is characterized by creative experimentation and subversive use of digital media. Functioning outside the confines of traditional publishing, divergent practices of collecting, documenting, and archiving E-Lit have emerged within the field's community.

The Consortium on Electronic Literature is an open access, non-commercial resource offering qualified access to literary databases, archives, and institutional programs in the literary arts and humanities scholarship. The recent revitalization of CELL has led to the work-in-process The CELL Index, which has a new interface, infrastructure, and data model that will ensure longevity and lessen the burden on individual scholars.

With rise of linked open data, we have chosen to use the collaborative, open-data knowledge graph Wikidata to communicate our data. This migration provides new opportunities to make metadata about electronic literature available to more people, as well as promoting the individual electronic literature databases who have been doing foundational work over the decades.

At the same time, we are creating our own focused Wikibase environment with taxonomy relevant to the electronic literature community in particular. Each record in the Wikibase contains links to the various places in which a work is documented or archived by other databases. In some cases the work itself has become unavailable, but has either been archived for preservation in its entirety, or documentation exists. In those cases, screenshots and walkthroughs created by individual working groups are a replacement for the original work. For this reason it's especially useful to have the overarching Consortium Wikibase linking to all these efforts to piece together what it left of the work.

In partnership with a variety of institutions archiving electronic literature, we are providing access for reuse of collections and datasets.