

DANIEL FERRERAS



Department of Foreign Languages, West Virginia University

Daniel Ferreras is an associate professor of French, Spanish and Comparative Literatures at West Virginia University. His work on the Fantastic, the detective story, marginalized genres, and popular culture issues has appeared in French Literature Series, Hispania, Política, Lectura y signo, Excavatio and Popular Culture Review, and he's the author of *Lo fantástico en la literatura y en el cine* (Vosa, 1996) and *Cuentos de la mano izquierda* (Silente, 1999). A long-time advocate for open digital communication, he was the first faculty member from the West Virginia University (WVU) Department of Foreign Languages to direct a thesis under the electronic submission mandate nearly a decade ago and he is an active member of the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation / Institutional Repository Task Force, as well as a faculty spokesperson for the SPARC "Create Change" program.

Dr. Ferreras has participated in several ETD conferences and seminars, providing a unique faculty perspective on fundamental issues concerning the digital library and the reception as well as the future of scholarly communications.

PERSPECTIVES ON OPEN ACCESS, ETDs AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS

The Digital Axis of Communications

» Daniel Ferreras, West Virginia University
» Wednesday, June 10 4:45 p.m.–5:45 p.m.

Cybernetic communication has deeply altered the notion of text as well as the way we relate to it, and the three basic elements at the foundation of any human exchange, that is the sender, the message and the receiver, are naturally implicated in this fundamental mutation. The paperless text supposes a re-definition of the axis of communication for it implies a new conception of both production and diffusion, especially within Academia, where a text is never just a text, but represents rather a contribution to a wider field of research, or a necessary step towards graduation or promotion.

The re-positioning of the sender and the destinatory within the academic axis of communication is directly related to the nature of the message itself which, by becoming digital, affects the conception of information in relation to its reception: as the nature of the message has mutated, so have those of the sender and the destinatory.

Naturally, this new axis of communication is yet still to be fully comprehended and assimilated within the pre-existing academic structure, for it forces us to reconsider many values and notions which had been taken for granted before the cybernetic revolution. Is an essay in a digital form as valid and legitimate as its hard-copy counterpart? Can faculty direct theses and dissertations without taking into account their radically new scale of diffusion? Can scholars protect intellectual property when projected onto the digital field?

Within Academia, these questions are not merely cultural, but professional as well; hence the need to address them as the digital revolution is still unfolding. The sender of a scholarly message today must conceive his or her endeavor in function of a radically different destinatory, and the message itself is directly affected by the new quality of this exchange. The former axis of scholarly communication, upon which the entire academic structure was based, is slowly dissolving into a wide-open digital axis of exchange, challenging most accepted views in regard to scholarly and academic publishing. Some considerations, such as those related to university politics or to tenure and promotion, as mundane as they might appear, cannot be neglected as we re-define the entire structure of scholarly communication, for they play determining roles in the understanding of faculty's reaction when confronted to the inevitable triumph of digital diffusion.

KARLA HAHN



Association of Research Libraries (ARL)

Karla Hahn is the Director of the Office of Scholarly Communication at the Association of Research Libraries, a nonprofit organization of 123 research libraries at comprehensive, research-intensive institutions in the US and Canada. It has a long history of leadership in promoting positive change in the scholarly communication system. Key focuses of current activity include the assessment and implementation of new scholarly communication models; the development of alliances to advance of new systems of scholarly communication; and advancement of library outreach efforts to inform the educational and research communities on issues relating to scholarly communication. Hahn holds both an MLS and a PhD and has published extensively on issues relating to publishing, electronic communication and libraries.

BROADENING DISSEMINATION OF NEW KNOWLEDGE

Scholarly Communications in the Digital Millennium

» Karla Hahn, Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
» Thursday, June 11 8:30 a.m.–9:30 a.m.

The academy is defined by its commitment to the ongoing production of new knowledge through research and scholarship. Yet, knowledge that is not transmitted, effectively does not exist, Dissemination of new knowledge is now far less constrained than in the days of paper-based publishing, but the new capability brings new responsibility for academic and research institutions to shape their infrastructure, policies, and cultures to ensure the broadest possible dissemination of knowledge now and into the future. Not merely traditional forms of scholarly