

13:00–14:00, Wednesday 16 November 2016
Centre for Digital Scholarship
Weston Library

Adrian Wisnicki
Megan Ward
James Cummings
Roger Easton
Keith Knox

Illuminating David Livingstone's 1870 Field Diary with Spectral Imaging

The Livingstone Spectral Imaging Project is an international digital humanities collaboration to apply advanced imaging technology to the study of the manuscript of Victorian explorer David Livingstone. Previously featured in a National Geographic documentary, the project has now concluded its second phase of research (2013–16) and members of the team including scholars and scientists will present on the results. The first phase (2010–13) confirmed that spectral imaging could be applied to recover “invisible” text in some of David Livingstone’s most damaged texts. In the new phase, the team takes the technology in a new direction—to study the material history of Livingstone’s 1870 Field Diary in order to understand its passage across space, time, and through many, many hands. The team will discuss the image processing techniques applied to the diary and how these techniques have helped uncover significant new information about the diary and the many environments through which it has circulated.

Adrian S. Wisnicki is an assistant professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a faculty fellow of the university’s Center for Digital Research in the Humanities.

Megan Ward is an assistant professor of English at Oregon State University and Associate Director of Livingstone Online.

James Cummings is a Senior Academic Research Technology Specialist for IT Services, University of Oxford.

Roger Easton is on the faculty of the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science of the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Keith Knox is an imaging scientist with the Early Manuscripts Electronic Library (EMEL).

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