The Lead-to-Pixels Project: Digitization and the Materiality of Book-History Training

Rebecca M. Chung
Book history, digitization, artifact preservation: issues

- Historic type collections which are durable, but not immortal
- A specialty dependent on access to book-history artifacts as well as digital archives, for both research and teaching
- Mechanical printing as a technology with intrinsic and functional value. Like a pencil, a press allows humans to make information and art objects under their own power.
- Book history as a common node between humanities and STEM
Book history and collective memory:

“As French sociologist Maurice Halbwachs suggested in *On Collective Memory*, published posthumously in 1950, ‘collective memory’ is to be distinguished from written history based on documents pertaining to the past and produced by trained scholars. It also differs from autobiographical memories of events personally experienced by individuals... ‘We can remember only on condition of retrieving the position of past events that interest us from the frameworks of collective memory...landmarks that we always carry within ourselves...’”

Calvo and Kahn, *Celebrating Shakespeare: Commemoration and Cultural Memory*. 
Case 2: The Alternative Press, Detroit
Case 1: Shakespeare, Hamlet Q2
Hamlet Q2: Proof of Concept
Q2: student involvement, creative writing
Q2: student involvement, humanities and engineering
The Alternative Press: student involvement
Lead-to-Pixels: Student Involvement
Next steps: ornament surrogates
“When the text is carried by a new technique and embodied in a new physical form, it can be offered to manipulation by a reader who is no longer limited, as with a printed book, to adding handwritten matter in the spaces left blank in typographic composition and binding. At the same time, the end of the codex will signify the loss of acts and representations indissolubly linked to the book as we now know it. In the form it has acquired in Western Europe since the beginning of the Christian era, the book has been one of the most powerful metaphors used for conceiving of the cosmos, nature, history, and the human body.

—Roger Chartier