

## Patrimoine numérique: accès, mise en réseau et présentation

Dr Louise Seaward Bentham Project, University College London

[louise.seaward@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:louise.seaward@ucl.ac.uk)

### Abstract:

#### **Transcribe Bentham: transcribing with computers and the crowd**

The Bentham Project is responsible for the scholarly edition of the writings of the English philosopher Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832). Since 2010, the Bentham Project has been supported by the community of volunteers working on *Transcribe Bentham* (<http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/transcribe-bentham/>). This is a crowdsourcing initiative which asks members of the public to transcribe digital images of Bentham's manuscripts. Transcripts produced by volunteers are made available online and used by the Bentham Project in the first stages of its editorial work.

This paper will summarise the creation, evolution and current operation of the *Transcribe Bentham* platform. It will explore the transcription process, mechanisms for user support and some of the challenges of working with members of the public to transcribe very complex material as part of an online project. The paper will also indicate the future direction of the initiative: the integration of Handwritten Text Recognition technology. The Bentham Project has been working intensively with the *Transkribus* platform (<https://transkribus.eu/Transkribus/>) for this purpose and impressive progress has been made with the automated transcription and searching of the Bentham collection. It is hoped that effective and efficient collaboration between computers and human transcribers will help the Bentham Project continue to expand and enhance what has become an important online resource for historical and philosophical scholarship.

### CV:

Dr Louise Seaward

Research Associate

Bentham Project, University College London (2015 - )

### Qualifications

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PhD in History (University of Leeds, 2013)

Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy

### Publications

'The Small Republic and the Great Power: Censorship between France and Geneva in the later Eighteenth Century', *The Library*, 18, 2 (2017), 191-217

'The *Société typographique de Neuchâtel* (STN) and the Politics of the Book Trade in late Eighteenth-Century Europe, 1769-1789', *European History Quarterly*, 44, 3 (2014), 439-479

'Censorship through Cooperation: The *Société typographique de Neuchâtel* (STN) and the French Government, 1769-1789', *French History*, 28, 1 (2014), 23-42