

## Brief Bio and (PR)<sup>2</sup>: Problems & Pitches – Rants & Raves by *John Walsh*



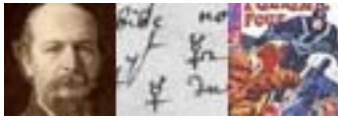
I am an assistant professor in the School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University, where I teach and conduct research in the areas of digital humanities and digital libraries. My research focuses on electronic textuality and the nature of the document in the digital age. I explore the evolution of the document, the book, and the literary text—both born-digital new media texts and digital representations of prior texts. Digital environments and tools offer possibilities for new representations of texts, new readings, and new strategies and habits of reading as documents evolve from more or less static and fixed texts to fluid and malleable data. As part of exploring these transformational developments in textuality, I study the application of metadata and semantic web technologies to facilitate new forms of close, distant, and social reading and interpretation.

Current research projects include the Swinburne Project <http://www.swinburneproject.org/>, the Chymistry of Isaac Newton <http://www.chymistry.org/>, and Comic Book Markup Language <http://www.cbml.org/>.

I served for four years on the Technical Council of the Text Encoding Initiative <http://www.tei-c.org/>; I am on the Executive Committee of the Association for Computers and the Humanities <http://www.ach.org/>; and I serve as Technical Editor of the online journal Digital Humanities Quarterly <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/>.

- list of up to five major publications
  - Walsh, John A. “‘Quivering Web of Living Thought’: Conceptual Networks in Swinburne’s □ Songs of the Springtide.” *Swinburne and the Singing Word: New Perspectives on the Mature Work of □ Algernon Charles Swinburne*. Ed. Yisrael Levin. London: Ashgate, 2009 (forthcoming).
  - Pastorino, Cesare, Tamara Lopez, and John A. Walsh. "The Digital *Index Chemicus*: Toward a Digital Tool for Studying Isaac Newton's *Index Chemicus*." *Body, Space & Technology Journal* 7.20 (2008) 27 March 2008  
<http://people.brunel.ac.uk/bst/vol0702/cesarepastorino/>.
  - Walsh, John A. "The Nineteenth Century." *A Companion to Digital Literary Studies*. Ed. Ray Siemens and Susan Schreibman. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007.
  - Kumar, Amit, Susan Schreibman, Stewart Arneil, Martin Holmes, Alejandro Bia, and John Walsh. "<teiPublisher>: A Repository Management System for TEI Documents." *Literary and Linguistic Computing* 20.1 (2005): 117-132.
- list of relevant projects you are working on
  - The Chymistry of Isaac Newton <http://www.chymistry.org/>.
- links to data or software you serve (if applicable)
- link to your home page.
  - <http://www.slis.indiana.edu/faculty/jawalsh/>

An Image I relate to...



## General Questions

- 1) What is (are) your main interest(s) in attending the workshop?

I am interested in exploring new ways of mapping and visualizing conceptual networks in the alchemical corpus of Isaac Newton, as well as in other texts. I am also interested in learning more about basic mapping and visualization technologies and available software and tools.

- 2) What would you like to learn / achieve at the workshop?

Our texts/data are long, prose (sometimes verse) documents. They begin life as unstructured transcriptions, and are then encoded in XML to produce semi-structured documents. I am interested in learning about possible techniques and technologies for automatic extraction and coding of key terms and concepts. I am also interested in tools that allow "zoomable" visualization and mapping at various levels of granularity, e.g., the whole of extant 17<sup>th</sup>-century alchemical literature, the Newton corpus, or individual manuscripts.

- 3) *If you are a philosopher of an historian of science:* In what ways might people that study and map science benefit from your work?

*If you are a scientometrician/science map maker:* In what ways might philosophers or historians of science benefit from your work?

Alchemical literature is full of puzzles and deliberate obfuscation. For instance, an individual "recipe" for a chymical process may be broken up and distributed throughout a large text, without obvious clues as to how the pieces fit together. Visualizations and maps of the alchemical corpus should provide scholars an additional tool for weaving their way through the maze of texts and reassembling the pieces of the puzzles.

**Please send the completed document by June 11th, 2009  
to Katy Borner <[katy@indiana.edu](mailto:katy@indiana.edu)> and Mark Price <[maaprice@indiana.edu](mailto:maaprice@indiana.edu)>**