Introduction

We live in a time of immense disruption and transformation of communication technologies. Tens of millions who hailed the rise of "new media" and "the digital age" have lost sight of the continuity between these events and earlier transformations in media and communication. The emergence of new media alongside the old has created fruitful new areas of research and collaboration. In this context, the rise of print culture went largely unacknowledged as a case study for scholars of many diverse fields.

From the invention of movable type and the mechanical printing press in the fifteenth century to the first daily newspapers in the early eighteenth century to the creation of industrial printing technologies in the nineteenth century, the rise of print culture has driven scholarly transformations in ways people have engaged, understood, and valued themselves and the world around them. Scholars who study media across the sciences and humanities have argued that the development and expansion of digital technologies requires us to reconceptualize the history of print, material, and visual culture.

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What does it mean that for many the most used "libraries" have become "digital"? What are the implications for the development of new knowledge? How can we increase the availability of digital materials for use by students, scholars, and the public? How can we increase the availability of digital materials for use by students, scholars, and the public?

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