

5C—On Digital Collections

The Classification of Digital Emergence: A Critical Examination of the Material Production of Digital Libraries within Special Collections and Archives, Robert D. Montoya (University of California, Los Angeles).

This paper will critique the infrastructure of academic digital libraries and tease out the ways their formation is an extension of the social, political, and economic circumstances by which they are produced. By restoring analytically the visibility of digital objects, we can better understand the biases they represent, and thus better understand the relationship between the physical archival collection and their constructed surrogates. Incorporating experience working as the Head of Public Services at UCLA Library Special Collections, I wish to propose a classification of digital emergence to contextualize the importance of these surrogates within instruction, reference, and other public services.