

From *Locations* to *Locatability*

Enhancing Archival Methods for Feminist Studies in Rhetoric and Composition

The 2013 FYAP award enabled the theorization and development of a prototype for **MDMP** (the MetaData Mapping Project). **MDMP** is a digitally crowd-sourced historical tool for preserving, analyzing, and making accessible information about unprocessed, obscure materials written by women, that have influenced the development of rhetoric or writing instruction since the 1890s.

MDMP's Principal Functions

Input Form: Collecting and generating user-contributed information about how the intellectual and pedagogical activities of women faculty associated with rhetoric, writing, or literacy instruction circulate between institutions and their publics.

Topical Ontology: Applying metadata tags to citation and memory events in unpublished or out-of-circulation textbooks, administrative and curricular documents, and archival ephemera.

Topic Maps and Visualization: Modeling a set of data representations that show relationships between topics and locations, and between bibliographic references and users' activities.

MDMP's Critical Goals

To understand women's critical locations by including historians' own affiliations and motives for seeking them out, and by reflecting on the ways in which their movement through metadata reveals or conceals topical shifts over time.

To enact a different kind of historical inquiry by mapping and visualizing how women's pedagogical influence has moved trans-historically (across histories, or through space, time, and critical consciousness).

To fill a representational gap in women's pedagogical history, given that most databases rely on the systematic circulation of published texts.