Problem

Despite the ongoing expansion of online resources like WWO, historical texts can seem inaccessible to students, general readers, and even scholars who are unfamiliar with the historical period or the conventions and themes the texts address.

The WWP has approached this problem as an opportunity to add new features to our collection in the form of exhibits that contextualize our material and make it more functionally dynamic for non-experts.

WWO exhibits can:
- make WWO a collaborative space for users
- promote greater awareness of the depth and breadth of our holdings
- deepen our relationship with scholars whose research supports and is supported by our collection
- provide scholars and students a place to publish and engage with original work in a non-traditional format
- offer new tools for exploration and discovery of primary documents and contextual material

Outcomes

WWO exhibits make use of established and experimental Web and XML technologies to help users re-imagine the possibilities for visualizing, interacting, and thinking with electronic collections.

Exhibits also:
- contextualize traditions in women’s writing and serve as scholarly resources
- highlight important currents in contemporary scholarship
- promote exchange of knowledge among students and teachers

Exhibit Components

- Edited content from contributing scholars
- Enhanced HTML output
- That incorporates multimedia content and dynamic visualizations such as timelines, maps, and text analysis tools

Future Development

- Robust exhibits framework to support the collection and display of user-contributed content
- Enhanced interface options for interacting with full WWO collection
- Scalable visualization and multimedia capabilities

About the Women Writers Project

The Women Writers Project (WWP) is a long-term research project devoted to the study of early modern women’s writing and electronic text encoding. Women Writers Online (WWO), an extensive collection of XML-encoded documents by women who wrote before 1850, is currently available to a wide audience of teachers, students, and scholars.