

*Session 6: When everything is digitized... The future of libraries, archives and museums, and analogue*

GREGORY CRANE, Tufts University; “The Public Sphere in an Electronic Age”

The public sphere – that fuzzy but critical space between private exchange and the state – has taken on a dynamic and rapidly evolving life. We will examine some of the opportunities by which we can contribute to this new space of discourse and intellectual life. The rise of Wikipedia has demonstrated that the urge and the capacity to contribute extends well beyond those who built the infrastructure of formal print and of capital intensive mass media cultures. The human record can reach more of humanity than has ever been conceivable before, while emerging technologies provide the instruments by which we can work more effectively with more sources than was possible. Institutions of higher learning have only begun to confront the challenges and extraordinary opportunities that this rapidly evolving public space now offers. We can, however, already see the outlines for new relationships not only between our immediate students but with society as a whole.