Women in America: The Western Experience
Spring 2012

Reflection on Technology

In Women in America: The Western Experience, we have been using technology for in-class activities as well as for research and collaboration. In addition, in the first half of the course, we informally evaluated several online exhibits, in part by modifying a framework designed for evaluating physical museum exhibits. Finally, the capstone project for this course is the online exhibit on Idaho women's amateur arts and crafts. Now it's time to reflect on these experiences.

> Write a 2- to 3-page, double-spaced paper reflecting on your use of technology in this course and on the usefulness of technology more generally to historical practice and interpretation.

You might, for example, consider:

- your use of the iPad during class meetings;
- your use of the iPad outside of class (but in support of this course in particular);
- the challenges of collaboration, and the specific ways the iPad eased, or failed to ease, those tensions and stresses;
- the advantages or liabilities of online exhibits of artifacts;
- how technology aided, or failed to aid, your research for your final project (e.g. digitized articles, maps, photos); and
- how, if you downloaded books to read on the iPad or other device, you found reading and learning from ebooks compares to the experience of reading a printed book.

You're also, of course, welcome to discuss any other topic relevant to the prompt. Please do root your discussion in your own experience with historical research, writing, and (online) publication.

Please note that there is no single "correct" response to this prompt. I'm not looking for students to exclusively say they thought the deployment of technology in this course, and their own use of it, was downright masterful. Any well-written paper that addresses the prompt seriously and thoughtfully will receive an A.

Due: Thursday, May 3 at the beginning of class.