

## Household Words Exploration, Indexing Poetry, and Data Visualization Assignments

### **Household Words Issue Exploration | Due Friday, October 23**

This assignment asks you to pick an issue of *Household Words* in which *The Dead Secret* appeared. The work you do here should be based on *browsing* versus the kind of focused searching you're accustomed to when working on an essay. Linda K. Hughes in "*SIDEWAYS! Navigating the Material(ity) of Print Culture*" argues that we should be mindful of what "searching periodicals page by page, issue by issue can yield and what side glances across periodical titles can correspondingly reveal" (7). You will examine the whole issue, both closely reading the materials in the 24 pages as well as using the metadata from the *Dickens Journals Online* to analyze what you think this issue is doing thematically. You should take an exploratory tone since for most of you this will be your first time really engaging with the digital archive. You can use the first person, and you can talk about your experiences in doing archival research and what challenged you in doing this work. You can use outside sources (see Blackboard for links) on Charles Dickens and *Household Words* to help support your exploration. Your exploration should be 2 to 3 pages, typed, double-spaced and follow MLA format. You will need a works cited.

### **Indexing Poetry | See class schedule**

During our class sessions, we will be working in small groups to index poetry in volumes 10 – 19 of *Household Words*. This work will become part of the *Periodical Poetry Index*. [The Periodical Poetry Index](#), begun in 2010 by Natalie M. Houston, April Patrick, and me, seeks to provide bibliographic information on verse published in nineteenth-century periodicals. *Periodical Poetry* indexes original English language verse, English translations of foreign poetry, poems in groups, poems in series, and poems in prose anthology articles. Users can browse the relational database by periodical title, year, poet signature, first line index, and poem title. Users can also search by periodical, date range, poem form (sonnet), illustration, number of lines, and poet gender. The item detail view provides further information about the poem length, illustration notes, first line, and a link to the volume in the *Hathi Trust Digital library*.

Your group will be assigned two volumes (see Blackboard for indexing groups and assignments). Using the *Household Words* Google Sheet and the *Household Words* Indexing Form (links in Blackboard and shared with you in the class Google Folder), your group will locate the pages poems are on and then index those poems.

### **Data Interpretation and Visualization | Due Friday, November 6**

This assignment asks you to produce a data visualization either from our indexing work in *Household Words* or of your own. You will then write an analysis contextualizing the data and what the visualization helps reveal. You should include at least one chart, graph, or image from the pivot tables we produced in class. Think in terms of what kinds of research questions does the data answer. Your analysis should be 2 to 3 pages, typed, double-spaced and follow MLA format. You will need a works cited.