



Reading by Numbers

Recalibrating the Literary Field

Katherine Bode

Pub Date: 01 October 2014

Binding: Paperback

Price: £25.00 / \$40.00

ISBN: 9781783083084

Extent: 256 pages

Size: 152 x 229 mm /
6 x 9 inches

BISAC CATEGORY: LITERARY CRITICISM / Books & Reading; HISTORY / Australia & New Zealand; LITERARY CRITICISM / Australian & Oceanian

BISAC CODE: LIT007000

BIC CODE: DSA

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An exploration of the critical potential of digital humanities and quantitative methods to produce new knowledge about literary and cultural history.

'It is not often – or often enough – that one is confronted by a work that has the power to transform a field of study, but this is precisely what Katherine Bode has achieved in her new history of the Australian novel. "Reading by Numbers" is as exciting as it is unsettling and it offers a major intervention in Australian literary history, not least in its power to challenge both sedimented accounts of that history and the methods used to produce them.' – Marianne Dever, 'Australian Literary Studies'

'Reading by Numbers: Recalibrating the Literary Field' is the first book to use digital humanities strategies to integrate the scope and methods of book and publishing history with issues and debates in literary studies. By mining, visualising and modelling data from 'AustLit' – an online bibliography of Australian literature that leads the world in its comprehensiveness and scope – this study revises established conceptions of Australian literary history, presenting new ways of writing about literature and publishing and a new direction for digital humanities research. The case studies in this book offer insight into a wide range of features of the literary field, including trends and cycles in the gender of novelists, the formation of fictional genres and literary canons, and the relationship of Australian literature to other national literatures.

Readership

This book will benefit academics in literary, cultural and print culture studies, book history, digital humanities, feminism and gender studies.

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Acknowledgements; List of Tables and Figures; Introduction: A New History of the Australian Novel; Chapter 1. Literary Studies in the Digital Age; Chapter 2. Beyond the Book: Publishing in the Nineteenth Century; Chapter 3. Nostalgia and the Novel: Looking Back, Looking Forward; Chapter 4. Recovering Gender: Rethinking the Nineteenth Century; Chapter 5. The 'Rise' of the Woman Novelist: Popular and Literary Trends; Conclusion: Literary Studies in the Digital Future; Notes; Bibliography; Index

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