**Lab: WWI and the Timeline**

02/18/2013

In this activity, we will add to the timeline the items pertaining to our discussion of WWI content in various magazines, and think reflectively about the tool as a means of content discovery. The following steps are designed to get you using and thinking critically about the timeline’s search and filter functions.

Deliverables: Write up your lab “results” in a blog post that answers numbers 3-8 below.

**Procedure**

1. Check the timeline to see if your items already appear there.
   1. If they do, check that the bibliographic data are correct, and then edit the description and topic tags according to your reading of the piece(s).
   2. If not, then add the items to the timeline.
2. Go to the timeline web page (<http://modernist-magazines.org/timeline.html>). If you’re already at the page, hit the Refresh button on your browser to ensure that the changes you’ve made appear in the timeline. Find your items and check that they appear correctly.
3. Search for words relevant to any discourse(s) you’re interested in during the WWI period (August 1914 – November 1918). Make a note of any significant items that appear in the timeline (include titles, authors, magazines, genres, topic tags in a bulleted list). Click through to look at one or two of the items. What kinds of connections do you see with the items you brought in for today’s class (i.e. author, genre, topic, magazine, etc.)? If you were writing about them for a scholarly piece, how would you talk about them together?
4. Use the author filter to find other pieces by your author(s) during WWI. Again, take a list of some important pieces that seem relevant to your discourse of interest. What do the results tell you about the author(s) writing or activities during the period? If the author has no other pieces, what does *that* tell you?
5. Use the Topic filter to find other items on your discourse of interest during the war years. Again, make a list of a few significant pieces. What does this list say about filtering the timeline by topic?
6. Use the Genre filter to find other items on your discourse. Make a short list. What does the catalog of pieces under the genre tell you about magazine output during the war?
7. Use the Magazine filter to find other wartime content from the magazine(s) you brought in for today. Make a short list of items, and say something about the magazine’s production as evidenced by the timeline.
8. Having gone through the other steps, what do you see as the benefits and drawbacks of using the timeline as a tool for discovery? Did it help you make any especially interesting connections? How so? If not, why not?