Developing Malleable Finding Aids with Wikis

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( Robert B. Allen, Drexel University, PhD Advisor )

ARCHIVES*RECORDS / DC 2010,
Joint Annual Mtg of CoSA, NAGARA, and SAA
Research Forum, Washington, DC
August 10, 2010
Malleable, *adj*

1. **a.** Esp. of metal: capable of being hammered or pressed out of shape without a tendency to return to the original shape or to fracture.

   **b.** [Probably after literal meaning of post-classical Latin *malleare.*] Of stone: capable of being dressed with a hammer. *Obs.*

2. **gen.** Capable of being fashioned or adapted; adaptable, pliable.

   From OED online, June 2008 revision.
Objectives

• *Additional* representations / transformations.
  – A particular version is eventually ill-suited
• *Leverage* “user” knowledge / contribution.
  – Based on the idea of gifts and giving
    • The Gift by Marcel Mauss
    • The Cathedral and the Bazaar by Eric Raymond
  – Developing or finding new meaning
• Use “off the shelf” wiki technology
  – Determine what elements resonate
  – Capture changes / evolution over time
• (Not worried about EAD per se.)
Theory of Structuration

• By Anthony Giddens, *Constitution of Society*
• Structuration is a *process* and *duality* of
  – Agency (user) within Structure (practice)
  – Recursive with changes
• *Agency* (man or machine) able to interpret
• *Structure* is practice
  – Malleability facilitates additional interpretation(s) or transformations and becomes overt practice
Implementation of a “Commons”

• Archives / Guides are non-rival goods
  – “A” guide doesn’t preclude “B” guide
  – Guides with specific purpose / theme (?)

• Use Off the Shelf Technology
  – MVS is using Atlassian’s Confluence Wiki
    • Not open source, but low cost (ditched MediaWiki)
    • Linking, tagging, adjacency, referring, provenance / change tracking, rearrangement, visualization
  – Particular interest in non-archival application
    • Wider development, broader reach, integration
What did I do?

• Established a Finding Aid “space” in wiki
  – Developed Prototype layout
  – Added in elements of functionality / features
  – Will test which elements (if any) useful

• Example: T.C.H. Jacobs Literary Papers
  – Held by Pennsylvania State University
  – Original Guide won 2006 MARAC award
  – Collection not available in digital form
Finding Aids .... of the malleable type

Added by Scott Anderson, last edited by Scott Anderson on Jul 04, 2010 (view change)

Below are the 8 labels used in Finding Aids listed alphabetically. Click on a label to see its associated content.

- correspondence
- favourite
- fiction
- letter
- letters
- novel
- postcards
- pulp

Search the Finding Aids listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Materials</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacobs, T.C.H.</td>
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<td>1900-1901</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burke, Kenneth</td>
<td>letters to William H. Rueckert</td>
<td>1959 - 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burke, Kenneth</td>
<td>list of correspondents</td>
<td>1959 - 1987</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recently Updated
Guide to the T.C.H. Jacobs Literary Papers, 1907-1974

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1 Biographical Note
2 Scope and Content
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      5.4.2 Sub-series IV - Record Book
   5.5 Series V. Writings
      5.5.1 Sub-series V - Juvenilia
      5.5.2 Sub-series V - Typescripts
      5.5.3 Sub series V - Typescripts With Accompanying Materials
      5.5.4 Sub-series V - Published Works

Brief Overview

T.C.H. (Thomas Curtis Hicks) Jacobs, was a prolific English pulp fiction author of Westerns, romances, true crime stories, and spy and detective fiction.


Number of Folders

- Series I is Biography
- Series II is Correspondence
- Series III is Journals - Common Books
- Series III is Journals - Record Books
Jacobs, T. C. H. (Thomas Curtis Hicks) 1899-1976

Overview

Works: 49 works in 68 publications in 3 languages and 577 library holdings

Genres: Mystery fiction

Classifications: hv6245, 823.91

Publication Timeline

Key
- Publications about T. C. H Jacobs
- Publications by T. C. H Jacobs
- Publications by T. C. H Jacobs, published posthumously.

Most widely held works about T. C. H Jacobs
Biographical Note

T.C.H. (Thomas Curtis Hicks) Jacobs, was a prolific English pulp fiction author of Westerns, romances, true crime stories, and spy and detective fiction. He was born in Plymouth, Devonshire, England, on 30 December 1899, to Mary and Robert Jacobs, a printer and paper merchant, and educated in a local Plymouth grammar school. Jacobs wrote his first published work for the Western Weekly News at age sixteen.

Jacobs served in the British Army Infantry from 1917 to 1921. In 1918, he was wounded in action and taken prisoner of war. He escaped and was demobilized in 1921 as a second lieutenant. After the war, Jacobs joined the English civil service as a revenue investigating officer. In 1925, he married Muriel Newbury.

In 1928, Jacobs sold his first novel, an "economic necessity," he later recalled, as a serial published by A. J. Rhodes. During his 23 years with the Inland Revenue, Jacobs wrote at night. From 1950 to 1976, he wrote full time. He began by writing many short stories for boys' magazines, but as the popularity of short stories for boys' magazines and fiction declined around 1950, he branched into non-fiction writing with a trilogy on the study of murder.

In 1953, Jacobs became a founding member of the Crime Writers' Association; in 1960-1961 he served as its chairman. His other memberships included The Society of Civil Service Authors, the Press Club, Radio and Television Guild, Society of Authors, and the Bexley Rotary Club. In 1939, Jacobs attained the distinction of being the first English civil servant to have a film made from one of his novels, Traitor Spy.

For much of his life, Jacobs apparently made his home in Bexley, Kent, England. He died in London in 1970; his obituary was listed under the newspaper, London Daily News.
Series III. Research


This series contains resources kept by T.C.H. Jacobs to support his writing. This series was created from loose items among his papers. It includes pages from medical journals, crime-related information from the Crime Writers' Association, course materials about writing for television, and clippings from British magazines and newspapers documenting highly publicized crime and spy scandals of the 1950s and 1960s. Reflecting Jacobs' interests, these resources provide glimpses into the sources of Jacobs' inspiration and knowledge in developing his stories.

The series is arranged chronologically.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Capital punishment / insanity / juvenile delinquency / Symonds case, 1953-1973 (bulk 1963-1964)</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Murder / spies, 1954-1976 (bulk 1954) and undated</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>The secrets case and Master Detective, 1961-1963 (bulk 1961)</td>
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<td>The Medico-Legal Journal, 1962</td>
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<td>The Hanratty case, 1962</td>
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The series is arranged chronologically.

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List by Series, Box, and Folder

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<tr>
<th>Series - Sub series</th>
<th>Box Number</th>
<th>Folder Number</th>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Folder Begin Date</th>
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<td>1961</td>
<td>1963</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>(bulk 1964-1965)</td>
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</table>
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<th>Box Number</th>
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<th>Folder Begin Date</th>
<th>Folder End Date</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Writings - Juvenilia</td>
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<td>The Children's Book of Stories and The Wreck off the Martin's Point . . .</td>
<td>1907</td>
<td>1910</td>
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<td>Writings - Published Works</td>
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<td>Dartmoor Hermits and others</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>1929</td>
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<td>Writings - Typescripts</td>
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<td>1929</td>
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<td>Blue Fire Blackmail and others</td>
<td>1930</td>
<td>1964</td>
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<td>1930</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>and undated</td>
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<td>1964</td>
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<td>Travelogue of California</td>
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</table>

**Now sorted by Folder Begin Date, removed from folder title.**
Obituaries

Nothing found in the New York Times.

- Additional Related Materials / Information / Bibliography
- Descriptive Summary
- Administrative Information
- Arrangement

Index Terms in Pennsylvania State Library Catalog

Credits

⚠️ The original guide for the T.C.H. Jacobs Literary Papers is hosted at the Pennsylvania State University, Special Collections Library, Rare Book and Manuscripts.
Obituaries

Nothing found in the New York Times.

Additional Related Materials / Information / Bibliography

Primary Materials related to T.C.H. Jacobs

A list of additional primary source materials that are related to T.C.H. Jacobs or the genre are available.

Secondary Information related to T.C.H. Jacobs

A list of secondary information related to T.C.H. Jacobs or the genre inclusive of articles, books, etc. is available.

Bibliography of Works by T.C.H. Jacobs

A bibliography of works by T.C.H. Jacobs inclusive of works written under various pseudonyms is available.

Descriptive Summary

Administrative Information

Arrangement
Bibliography of works by T.C.H. Jacobs

Added by Scott Anderson, last edited by Scott Anderson on Jul 29, 2010 (view change)

Novels
(series: Chief Inspector Barnard; Det. Supt. John Bellamy; Temple Fortune; Whip McCord; Jim Malone; Mike Seton)

The original guide for the T.C.H. Jacobs Literary Papers is hosted at the Pennsylvania State University, Special Collections Library, Rare Book and Manuscripts.

Incoming Links
No incoming links to this page were found.

Outgoing Links
- Bibliography of works by T.C.H. Jacobs
- http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CCH1000077191&v=2.1&u=mill1837&it=r&p=LitRC&sw=w
- http://www.worldcat.org/wcidentities/lccn-n85-115021
- Libra Bernard
- Primary Materials related to T.C.H. Jacobs
- Secondary Information related to T.C.H. Jacobs

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9 ➤ Descriptive Summary
10 ➤ Administrative Information
11 ➤ Arrangement
12 ➤ Index Terms in Pennsylvania State Library Catalog
13 ➤ Credits

Labels Edit
novel fiction pulp

Child Pages (3)  Hide Child Pages  |  Reorder Pages  |  Add Child Page
Bibliography of works by T.C.H. Jacobs
Primary Materials related to T.C.H. Jacobs
Secondary Information related to T.C.H. Jacobs

Comments (2)  Hide Comments  |  Collapse All  |  Add Comment

Scott Anderson says:
Steve Holland, freelance author and editor, has some additional words (and bibliography) about TCH Jacobs in his March 25, 2009 blog entry.

Reply

a. Anonymous says:
That's a nice bibliography, very helpful if you're trying to find all of his publications.

Reply
T.C.H. (Thomas Curtis Hicks) Jacobs, was a [prolific English pulp fiction author](http://www.worldcat.org/wcidentities/lccn-n85-115021) of Westerns, romances, true crime stories, and spy and detective fiction.


h2. Biographical Note

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Thank you!

Scott R. Anderson

scott.anderson@millersville.edu

717-871-2377

http://wiki.millersville.edu/x/KANV