

# Virtual Verse in the Library: Surveying the E-Poetry Landscape

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## The Issues:

- The Council of Literary Magazines and Presses Directory lists nearly 200 online literary journals today
- Poetry is among the most heavily represented genre, but there is little record or digital preservation of e-poetry works

## Project:

Awarded an IMLS National Leadership Planning Grant to investigate methods of indexing individual works of online-only poetry

## Activities:

- Complete environmental scan of online poetry publishing
- Assess information behaviors and experiences with online-only poetry of poets, literary scholars, publishers, and librarians
- Surveyed 200 faculty, librarians, and literary publishers in 3 separate surveys
- Interviewed 19 poets, literary scholars, publishers, and librarians
- TO COME: Identify potential partners for development and maintenance of online poetry index

## Responses from Publisher, Faculty, and Librarian Surveys

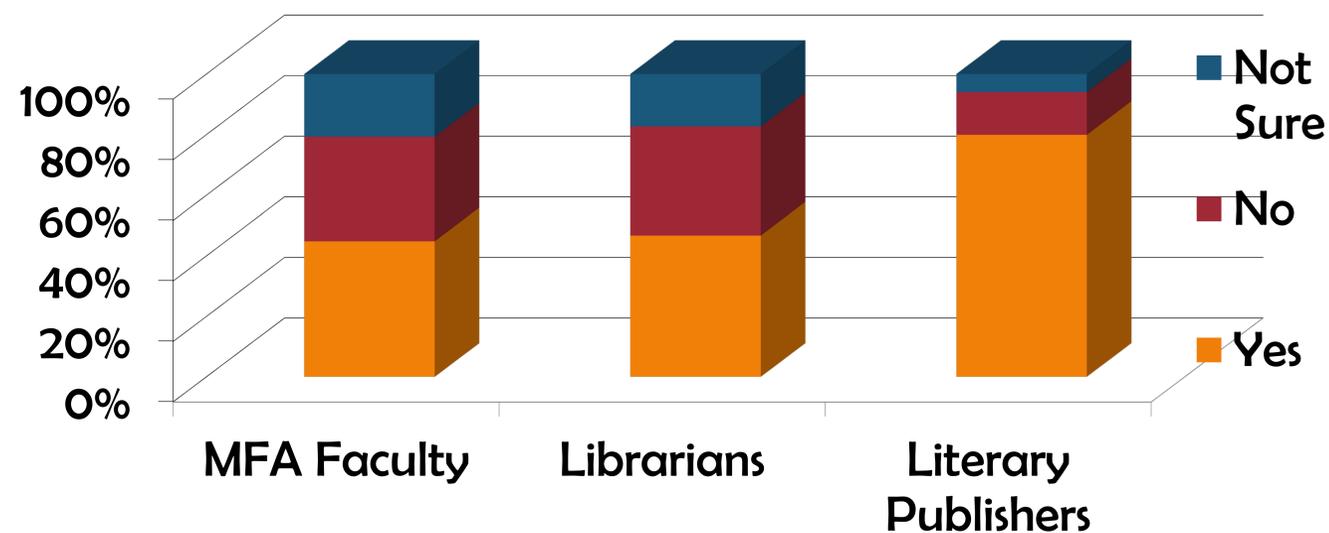
### Issues in creating an online-only poetry index

"I would like to think there's a general repository of some sort out there in cyberland so that online poems would be accessible & not simply consigned to oblivion after their initial appearance."  
.—Faculty Member

"When e-journals fold and their journal goes offline when the domain and hosting bill lapses, it'd be a way to index and preserve the work published online. There have been a few very good e-journals that have folded recently, and I hope they remain online."  
.—Publisher

I think that we'll continue to have print only literary publications, but I see online-only poetry ... as continuing to develop. My chief concern is actually long term preservation."  
.—Librarian

### Has the availability of poetry online changed the way you find and read poetry?



### Challenges and considerations in online publishing:

"Formatting the work, maintaining accurate archives, the sense of an "eternal present" for an archived work."  
.—Publisher

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