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Digital Reading

This paper will report on two international research projects (Researching Readers Online; the Digital Reading Research Network) investigating reading in the digital age. Both projects were inspired by the observation that digitization has the potential to radically transform the way we read, and that digital tools may allow us to access and process data on reading in ways which would have been unthinkable previously.

Both projects have explored a range of tools and methods from the digital humanities that may be utilized for the study of digital reading. However, both have also been wary of naïve or sweeping assumptions about the transformations brought about by digitization, and the rhetoric of progress that often characterizes discussion of the effects of these changes.