From *Yesterday* to *Today*: Modernizing Early English Broadside Ballads

**Introduction**
The English Broadside Ballad Archive (EBBA) serves to transcribe seventeenth century ballads into an online database thus making them more accessible in a modern day society. With EBBA, I was one of the many responsible for transcribing early ballads from the Houghton collection.

**Importance**
I believe that the importance of transcribing ballads, and the importance of EBBA, is that they have created an online database that gives access to seventeenth century texts that would otherwise be impossible to come by – or well, as easily as EBBA has done. In a generation where technology has become more profound and has become the center of newer generations, keeping a tradition of looking at old English literature online becomes important, and ensuring the accessibility makes keeping the art of literature alive.

**Conclusion**
Being a part of EBBA has taught me that language has drastically changed throughout the centuries. But, ultimately, the themes of adultery, love and sex were common then as much as they are now. This put into perspective that although time and language constantly change, people ultimately don’t and that is something I probably would’ve never realized if not for being a part of EBBA.

*Research Assistant: Marla Cole*