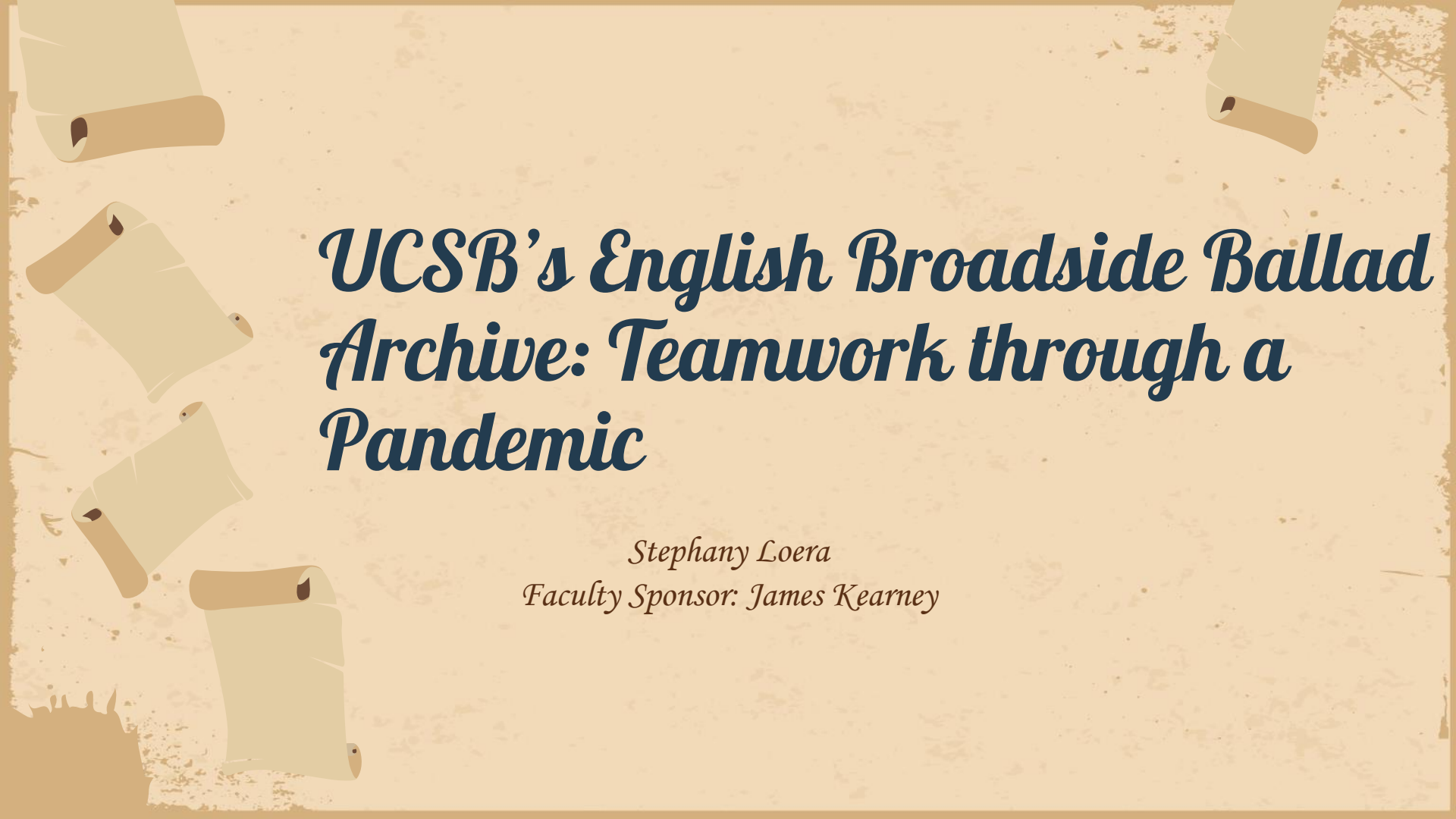


The background is a light beige color with a subtle, mottled texture resembling aged parchment. On the left side, there are several stylized illustrations of rolled-up scrolls or documents, some partially unrolled, in shades of tan and brown. The main title is centered in a large, bold, dark blue serif font.

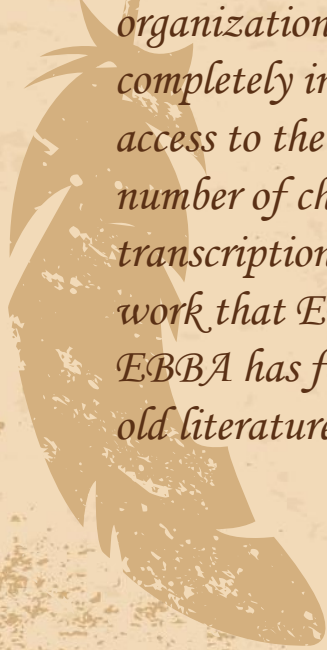
UCSB's English Broadside Ballad Archive: Teamwork through a Pandemic

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Introduction:

The University of California, Santa Barbara's English Broadside Ballad Archive works to digitally preserve 17th Century English Ballads. Without this kind of organizational structure for old literature, all of these works would be almost completely inaccessible to the general public. EBBA allows anyone from anywhere get access to the ballads that otherwise, wouldn't be available. This quarter has brought a number of challenges which meant that I was not able to do any facsimile transcriptions on Photoshop, but that doesn't mean that I can't appreciate all the hard work that EBBA does. As if the entire process wasn't already something to admire, EBBA has found a way to operate through a pandemic and provide access to centuries-old literature.



Discussion

As a research assistant for EBBA, my tasks were supposed to primarily be to create ballad facsimile transcriptions, image associations, and come up with a creative social media post. However, this quarter had different plans for me. For the most part, I worked on associating images on EBBA's website meaning that I matched an album facsimile and the ballad facsimile to the texts' title using an EBBA ID that is created for each individual ballad. Image association is definitely much simpler than using Photoshop to create facsimile transcriptions, but I would say it's comparable in how tedious and repetitive it can get. Associating images for the British Library's Osterley Park and the Poetical Broadside Collections let me get just a glimpse of the process that it takes to finally get an image on the website and available to the public.

Serving Broadside Ballads

The entire process takes many, many, small steps to eventually reach the end, and in associating images, I was just the last step of a complex process. In my mind, I likened the process to serving an excellent dish.

First, someone gathers the resources, then, they prepare them. Finally, they make it presentable. All I did was serve it up. This is an oversimplification of the process, but I just want to show that in working collaboratively, EBBA gets a lot done.





Even through a Pandemic

On top of all of this EBBA does it all even while in a pandemic. Even when we have no way of physically meeting to collaborate, EBBA supervisors have found a way to bring the Early Modern Center to our homes. Through the use of a VPN we can remotely access computers that are on campus and bring continue the process of archiving. Not even a pandemic can stop EBBA from serving up ballads.