

# Kate Hayles – Interview Briefing & Script

Interviewers: To Be Determined

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## Part 1: Setting Up

Thank you for taking the time to join us for this interview for the Electronic Literature Organization's The NEXT (previously the Repository)! We are excited to meet you and learn more about your incredible work.

Before the interview begins, we will go through a quick setup process:

1. Please set up your camera in a well-lit, tidy room. (Natural lighting is preferable if available.)
2. Make sure there are no items with brand images or logos visible on screen. We will happily assess items you are unsure about on the day of your interview.
3. If you do not have webcam or microphone available, we may be able to provide equipment. Please let us know as soon as possible if that will be necessary. We can walk you through the finer details of setting up the camera once we are on the call.
4. Once everything is set up and functioning, we will ask you a few general questions before starting the main interview.

Please know that we do not expect you to answer any of the questions below in writing. During your interview, we will be asking you these questions and recording your verbal responses. We are providing our interview questions in advance, so you know what we plan to ask you.

We look forward to working with you!

## Part 2: General Questions

Before we start the formal interview, we will start with the general questions listed below:

1. Can you say your full name and which pronouns you prefer to use?
2. What is your preferred career title (e.g. Professor, Dr., artist, scholar)?
3. Do you have any institutional affiliations?
4. What is your relationship to the ELO?

Additionally, before we move into our main interview questions, we will ask you to read the short passage below. We plan to use this introduction in the trailer video that will accompany your collection in The NEXT.

*“Hello, my name is Kate Hayles. Welcome to my collection at Electronic Literature Organization’s The NEXT. What you are seeing are works I have donated from my personal collection to The NEXT!”*

### **Part 3: The Interview**

In this section the interview will officially start, and the interviewer will begin to ask their questions. Questions will range from your experience working with the Electronic Literature Organization as well as the materials donated to The NEXT, and more specific questions about yourself and your works.

There is no time limit to your answers, so feel free to go into as much detail as you would like. We can produce a short version of the video for your collection’s landing page and post the longer version on the ELO’s YouTube site, if you wish.

#### **Here are our questions:**

1. What will visitors see in The N. Katherine Hayles Collection?
  - a. We noticed that your collection includes works by many e-lit authors, so can you speak to what is your collection made up of in terms of artists and genres?
2. As a scholar who works in the intersection of literature and science, what initially sparked your interest in literature?
3. How has digital media shaped the lens from which we explore the world in the digital age today?
4. Which of the works on display in your collection on The NEXT do you find most important to the formation of electronic literature?
5. Many people attribute the early development of ELO to you moving it to UCLA in the early 2000s. Can you tell us a bit about your time as the faculty advisor of the Electronic Literature Organization?
  - a. What was the organization like then and how is it different today?

6. In your work, *Electronic Literature: New Horizons for the Literary*, you make a case for the benefits of moving electronic literature into the classroom. What is your perspective on the direction electronic literature is going with a younger generation now discovering it?
  - a. How might students and scholars benefit from it?

#### **Part 4: Thank You!**

Thank you so much for taking the time to ready and familiarize yourself with this interview script. We look forward to speaking with you soon and wish you well!

# N. Katherine Hayles Collection

Long Video Questions

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## Banner:

### N. Katherine Hayles

Distinguished Research Professor, University of California, Los Angeles  
James B. Duke Professor of Literature, Emerita, Duke University

## Questions:

**00:03** - Animated banner

**00:18** - Can you briefly describe the moments you consider most important in your career?

**01:50** - What will visitors see in The N. Katherine Hayles Collection?

**03:12** - Does your background in chemistry have any influence on your work?

**06:08** - What initially sparked your interest in electronic literature?

**08:26** - Which of the works on display in your collection in The NEXT do you find most important to the field of electronic literature?

**10:00** - Can you tell us about your time as the Director of the ELO and orchestrating ELO's first academic affiliation with UCLA?

**11:26** - What is your perspective on the transformation of electronic literature over time?

**12:37** - How might students benefit from the preservation and teachings of electronic literature?

**14:34** - How has your relationship with the Electronic Literature Organization influenced your scholarship and the publications you have put forward?

# N. Katherine Hayles Collection

Short Video Captions

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## Banner:

### N. Katherine Hayles

Distinguished Research Professor, University of California, Los Angeles

James B. Duke Professor of Literature, Emerita, Duke University

## Transcript:

*[inspirational flourish]*

- Hello, my name is Kate Hayles. Welcome to my collection at Electronic Literature Organization's The NEXT.
- What you are seeing are works I have donated for my personal collection to The NEXT.
- They'll see works from my personal collection and these include some very early works like
- the Voyager CD-ROM versions that had their own paperback format.
- They'll see some early works that I think are not available elsewhere.
- And many of these works were gifted to me by the artists themselves, who were eager to have an audience for their work,
- and they thought I might be able to help publicize some of their work.
- So I'm very, very glad to be able to archive these works in a way where I know they'll be preserved and made available to other folks.
- Welcome to The NEXT.

*[inspirational flourish]*