MAKING THINGS *and* DRAWING BOUNDARIES

EXPERIMENTS IN THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES

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EDITOR

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MashBOT

MashBOT consists of a small thermal receipt printer connected to Twitter via an Arduino microcontroller. Love notes are generated using Markov chains from a corpus consisting of 90 lines from Roland Barthes's *A Lover's Discourse: Fragments* and ten from Bruno Latour's *Aramis, or the Love of Technology*. They are then published to the @mashomatic Twitter account and printed as "receipts" for display. MashBOT asks us to think about the ways in which the written declaration of love (the "mash note") is a document at once transactional and unfathomable.

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Figure 5.1. Love notes emerging from MashBOT's thermal printer. Format: Love notes. Materials: Arduino, ethernet, thermal printer, breadboard components, and Twitter. Rutgers University-Camden Digital Studies Center, August 2015. Helen J. Burgess. Photograph by the artist.