Collaborative Repurposing of Existing Technology to Enhance Student-Directed Research

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Overview and Structure

• Initial identification of need
  • Librarian as connector
  • Improvisation
• Understanding need and known practices; Pedagogy
• Determining and testing data collection process
• Data collection; Scan-a-thons
• Value of the image
• Results and conclusions
Capitalizing on Chance Encounters

“All of that history might have been lost to postwar prosperity and the construction boom’s wrecking ball had not Professor Hyatt attended an annual reunion of Southside’s black residents in August 2008 and heard for the first time about their former Sephardic neighbors. By pure coincidence the next year, she ran into Lee Mallah, one of those former neighbors, selling Sephardic pastries at a local greenmarket.”

Organic Design

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Neighborhood of Saturdays
In Class

• Information literacy
• Scanning best practices
• Image and interview license/release
• File naming conventions
• Interview &nbsp; Metadata
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RLOs at: http://go.iu.edu/6dE
In the Community (in class)

- Scanners, forms, file naming lists
- Guiding the interview *(surprise)*
- Ensure necessary fields complete
- Selection of photos
- Best practices, quality assurance
- File organization
Collecting and Processing the Data

How we started
• Scan stations staffed by students; library staff circulate offer assistance
• Students submit files to Graduate Student who uploaded the files to ContentDM (sometimes)
• Graduate student creates from forms completed during scan
• Library creates public digital collection
• Library archives digital images

How we finished
• Scan stations staffed by 1-2 students and library staff
• Student conducts the interview; library staff scans
• Library staff uploads files to ContentDM
• Library staff creates metadata from forms completed during scan
• Library creates public digital collection
• Library archives digital images
Collecting and Processing the Data

What we will do next time

• Scan stations staffed by 2 students
  • 1 student scans to cloud or external hard drive
  • 1 student collects data in paper or web form
  • Library staff will circulate and assist as needed
• Library staff collects photos from cloud or external hard drives
• Student adds paper collected data to web form if necessary
• Library staff batch uploads metadata and images into ContentDM
• Library creates public digital collection
• Library archives digital images
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ContentDM

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• Metadata
• OCR
• Controlled Vocabulary
• Batch upload
• Public access to collection
• Free (for this class)
• Resident experts
• Preservation strategy
• A part of larger, known collection

• Administration levels prohibitive
• Learning curve
The Results (so far)

- **Digital Collection**
- Civic engagement
- Expand the services of the library
- Students (and community) with the beginnings of digital asset management knowledge
- Students introduced to Digital and Visual Anthropology concepts
- Model for digital humanities in undergraduate research courses
Visual Anthropology meets Digital Anthropology

“Digital anthropology involves the use of digital resources and technologies in anthropological research, teaching, collaboration, and public anthropology...[it] includes various forms of data management and representation.” (Pink)

“The Neighborhood of Saturdays project made me regain faith in credit of visual images as ethnographic tools.” (Hyatt)

Imperative of the Image

• “The force of the images that are in people’s minds as you interview them comes out in their narrations.” (Hyatt)

• “The the impact of hearing the story told effected what photos were selected for inclusion in digital collection.” (Palmer)

• “Digital process effected the way the students DID ethnography.” (Stamatoplos)

• “Images gave students ideas of question they wouldn’t have thought to ask otherwise.” (Hyatt)

Telling Their Story: Response to Wolowic by Ryan Logan

The use of photographs in our work has been instrumental in recording the history of the community. Throughout our time with the Southsiders, our class has organized several “scan-a-thons,” where we invited current and former residents to bring their photos and to wait while we scanned them. Photographs capture the essence of “how things used to be” and really bring the old Southside to life…

The photographs brought in by the community reveal what was “true” for them and what aspects of the neighborhood shaped their lives. Their photographs capture the Southside as they remember it and emphasize how the neighborhood has changed. … Our scan-a-thons have also helped turn all the participants into the co-authors of their collective history. Most of all, our collaboration has helped to recreate the story of a neighborhood still treasured by former residents even though its material presence vanished from our city’s current landscape long ago.

Next Time

• In depth in-class training with associated, for credit assignments
• Credit bearing checkpoints throughout
• Online form for metadata collection
Take-Aways

- Librarian as connector
- Image as ethnographic tool
- Technology repurposing
- New library services
- Data management as valuable skill for students
- Community engagement
Now You

What courses on campus might use library digital image technologies to enhance the student research process?

Think broader, what untapped existing campus resources, services could be integrated into the classroom to enhance student research?

Questions?
References


IUPUI University Library. Neighborhood of Saturdays. [digital collection]. ulib.iupui.edu/digitalscholarship/collections/NoS
