Affective Archives:
Retelling Narratives Through the Altered Book
(results from a small pilot study)

Presenter: Anastasia S. Weigle
CBAA 2016
Information experience

Content and meaning

People’s experiences of information as a starting point offers a perspective that values sensory information by looking at the use of information through the eyes of those who use their senses to create, communicate and express information as an art form.

The Artists and Archival Collections
Methodology & Data Analysis
Phenomenologic Inquiry

To describe a “lived experience”

Analyzed students’ written self-reports using a two-step open coding method.
"The world of archives felt like finding hidden treasure and now I know that those gems of information and life experience exist and I can explore them any time I choose." Par_06
... mill worker named Lucy Larcom. When I realized I could get her book at the Portsmouth Library I decided to read it. She lead me down the path I was looking for. All of a sudden, the story found me – and I found the girls.” Par_01
“I found myself wondering about Alice and I talked about her with my commuting partner every day – her story shifted and evolved with each incarnation.”

Par_01
“Mixture of love and war, the image already pre-conditioned by the fact that I’m the daughter of a veteran, but also because the book I was altering was red with dark, brownish-black tones. To me, black and red always signify conflict and passion, death and love.” Par_02
“My father and I collect obituaries of friends as well as strangers, with compelling stories etc., mostly lost, abandoned, alone or needy. In fact this interest .... this desire to preserve, to save was inculcated in us as a result of our own troubled family history of abandonment, and tragedy. Rescuing was how we attempted to heal ourselves I suppose.” Par_05
“I am a writer and literary critic by profession, so am obviously conditioned to process narrative, but with words, not with images, materials, or textures.” Par_02
Using Sociocultural Information

Rules or theory in a particular practice

“The challenges and frustrations I met were mostly technical – what was the best way to manage the bulk of adding elements to a text block, how could I sandwich a transparency in a signature effectively, how could I adhere pages together to provide a space for a cut out, where I could then place an object with some dimension ...I managed these challenges.” Par_04
Creating Information

New information drawn together from the external, sociocultural, and internal information experience creating new narratives through the altered book.

“Each page had to flow into the next while I also interposed some actual history of the Biddeford Mills alongside my fictional friendship between “Alice” and Lucy Larcom. This piece of “historical fiction” if you will, is a unique rethinking of the genre – why does a book have to be only words on a page? Watching the pages come together, I was amazed at how much I had learned along the way.”  Par_01
Creating Information

New information drawn together from the external, sociocultural, and internal information experience creating new narratives through the altered book.

“At this point my single original vision of a book about Nancy became a book about children who have and continue to die because they are refused medical care by parent or guardian yet I did not want to demonize the caretakers. ... messages written in a child’s handwriting (my 6yo great niece) in an effort to evoke her life by her hand, a kind of scrapbook. This book engendered many discussions with peers and family. I shared this story with others about Nancy and the other children and about this book ... To Remember Nancy.” Par_05
Lucy Larcom’s childhood friend Alice
Lucy Larcom “Mill Girl,”
American poet and writer, died 1893

Friday, January 8, 16
Participant 02  Narrative: War Stories during Spanish America War  POI: Dr. John Smith Fogg Papers

<table>
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<th>Spanish LatAm Studies</th>
<th>Emerita Professor</th>
<th>READING FIBER ARTS</th>
<th>1.5 YRS</th>
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<th>Research &amp; Recreation</th>
<th>YES</th>
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Friday, January 8, 16
Participant 02

Han paa Hovedet. Saa hjalp han som ingenting kunnet bære hende noget faldt aldrig Christian ind.

Sin Skorter og spurgte:

meget grim, Christian?

Ernst, saa havde han let og sagt;

meget, meget grim. Der er slet ingen

havet. Men saadan svarede Christian

når, Birthe, sagde han. Du er saa smuk!

fojede han til. Men jeg tror ikke,

haner ikke, hvad du siger. Jeg dør

et helt paa Birthes sprog. Hendes

havde, og dog nød han det. Saadan en

havde, vilde han gaa og huske paa. Han

stod den frem i sin Erindring, og saa vilde

er, saa var meget, meget lykkelig.

i Stavnsholt ligger alvorligt syg. Chris-

i Bordets Stov. Onkel Ernst har

ok, sagde Birthe. Gamle Frue Katrine

godt lide hende. Hun er morsom, og

hun.

ne mindes man hele Tiden om det. Har

Ovre paa . . .

ve paa Værvingaard. Men saa slog hun

enes til saa meget nyttigt, sagde hun. Kom

Hans Arm.
Participant 03

Narrative: Memoir of young woman and Civil War
POI: Mark Prime Papers (1862-1873)

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<th>BA Art</th>
<th>RETIRED</th>
<th>BOOK ARTS PRINTMAKING PHOTOGRAPHY</th>
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Friday, January 8, 16
Participant 03

MAINE - NEW YORK - NEW HAMPSHIRE - MASSACHUSETTS - CONNECTICUT - RHODE ISLAND - PENNSYLVANIA - NEW JERSEY - CHIO - ILLINOIS - MICHIGAN - MINNESOTA - WISCONSIN - IOWA - CALIFORNIA - NEVADA - OREGON - KANSAS

Abraham Lincoln, Pres
Participant 04

Narrative: Memoir

POI: Synthesis of all collections

<table>
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<th>BS Edu</th>
<th>RETIRED</th>
<th>BOOK ARTS</th>
<th>PHOTOGRAPHY</th>
<th>12 YRS</th>
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<th>Research &amp; Recreation</th>
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Friday, January 8, 16
STUDENT TEACHING IN ENGLAND

being a mother
moving to Maine
Master's degree
art in a public place
calligraphy for others

PUBLIC SPEAKING
cle & mke 1998
I don’t know exactly what a prayer is, but I do know how to pay attention.
I know how to fall down into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass, how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields which is what I’ve been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done? Doesn’t everything die at last, too soon?
Tell me, what is your plan to do with your one wild and precious life?
Participant 05

Narrative: A Memorial for Nancy Brewster
Collection: Dr. P.A Kikloedes (A.K.A. Dr. Cycloid)

<table>
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<th>B. A. B.F.A.</th>
<th>RETIRED Psychotherapist</th>
<th>COLLECTING QUILTING READING</th>
<th>10 YRS</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>Research &amp; Recreation</th>
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![Floral book page](image)

Hi My name is Nancy

Oversat fra engelsk efter „Indian Summer“ og „In Chancery“ af H.C. Andersen

Første opslag
Herved blev tekst i 1000 eksemplarer

Printed in Denmark
Aarhus Stiftsdigtekunst A/S

Remember Me
Nancy was made to exercise in the kitchen by her maid and instructed and forced to eat even though she didn't want it. Her mother and the practical nurse at the home, Mrs. Nichols, were on a mission to make her eat and drink. Nancy was just being stubborn and didn't want to do anything that was asked of her. Her mother sometimes even blamed her for not getting better. Nancy got no pain relievers, only water. She was not held or comforted by anyone. That would be giving reality. It was all so different. Kneeling in the dark and bleeding, opium, and Stohlberg over at the hospital. It was all so different. Mrs. Nichols was very attention-seeking. She was always demanding attention. She was not held or comforted by anyone.
Brewster Nancy Ann 7 died September 29, 1903 at her home in El Paso, Texas.

Nancy never had an obituary in El Paso and there was never any service to honor Nancy when she died. This is her first obituary.

after a 2½ year battle with Malgnant Lymphoma.

What she said:

"Try Lester Eddy"
<table>
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<tr>
<th>MFA Theater</th>
<th>Writer</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Life Coach</th>
<th>ART</th>
<th>READING</th>
<th>PIANO</th>
<th>NONE</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>Recreation</th>
<th>NO</th>
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Participant 06

Narrative: Acting on Dreams

POI: Walter E. Perkins Collection

Friday, January 8, 16
THE OLD MAN DREAMS.

O for one hour of youthful joy!  
Give back my twentieth spring!  
I'd rather laugh a bright-haired boy  
Than reign a gray-haired king!  

Off with the wrinkled spoils of age!  
Away with learning's crown!  
Tear out life's wisdom-written page,  
And dash its trophies down!  

One moment let my life-blood stream  
From boyhood's fount of fame!  
Give me one giddy, realising dream  
Of life all love and fame!  

— My listening angel heard the prayer,  
And calmly smiling, said,  
"If I but touch thy silvered hair,  
Thy hasty wish hath sped."

"But is there nothing in thy track  
To bid thee fondly stay,  
While the swift seasons hurry back  
To find the wished-for day?"

— Ah, truer soul of womankind!  
Without thee, what were life?  
One kiss I cannot leave behind:  
I'll take — my — precious — wife!  

— The angel took a sapphire pen  
And wrote in rainbow dyes,  
"The man would be a boy again,  
And be a husband too!"

— And is there nothing yet unaided  
Before the change appears?
Participant 06

SANTA CLAUS'S VISIT.

Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh
What’s it all mean?
What’s it all mean?

1. Archival collections contain Information that is both objective and subjective, tangible and intangible. Users Information experience transcends the documentary source to include a holistic, mind body approach to information.

2. The affective nature of Archival collections can provide book artists information as a point of inspiration.

3. The collaborative nature between the archivist and artist can offer new contributions in the book arts world.
For complete images of altered books, go to:

infoexpandbookartist.weebly.com
References


