EXPLORING PERSONAL CONNECTIONS IN A DIGITAL READING ENVIRONMENT

A new research study currently being conducted by UH MLISc candidate, Amy Trimble

THE RESEARCH PROCESS

Questions to Consider

- Are there ways patrons connect with digital reading materials?
- How are these connections manifested?
- Does the corporeal aspect still play a role?
- How can library space be designed to elicit and support these feelings of connections?

Method

- Qualitative, Phenomenological approach (lived experiences)
- Personal one-on-one interviews
- Background study on bibliophiles, early libraries, anthropomorphism, convergence theory

LIBRARIES AND THE ART OF READING

“The institutional aims of the modern library have been to exclude the body from the site of reading, to make a... purely mental experience, a process that will only accelerate in the future with the increasing incorporeality of the electronic word” (Camille, 1997).

IS THE PHYSICAL STILL ACCOUNTED FOR IN DIGITAL READING?

How do you choose to read?

- Books
- e-Books
- Hypertext
- PDF

HOW DO WE CONNECT?

Do you have a favorite book? Why is it your favorite?

- Sentimentality or Nostalgia
- Anthropomorphism
- Convergence – use across multiple platforms
- Oral Demonstration of a book/body connection
- Tool to help us relate to and understand the world around us

Demonstrates the need for the physical

People collect items they feel emotionally connected to or comforted by

People continue to return to the physical even in a digital world

Building collections, Bibliophilia

Participation, Interaction

Sentimental stories show how a person relates to a text

Memories of objects illustrate attachments

Individuals identify a book or text with a certain aspect or period of their life

Do you follow any blogs or websites? Does social media play into your daily reading habits?

Blogging, Reviews, Social media

Would you consider a book one of your dearest friends?

CONVERGENCE

Building collections, Bibliophilia

Participation, Interaction

Sentimentality or Nostalgia

Anthropomorphism

Oral Demonstration of a book/body connection

Tool to help us relate to and understand the world around us

Convergence – use across multiple platforms

Fan fiction, Fan groups, Cosplay

Blogging, Reviews, Social media

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For more information or to take part in the study please contact Amy via email: amyjt@hawaii.edu