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Something Creative Here: An Arts-Informed Discussion of Sustainability in Academic Libraries

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May 18, 2018.



**Something creative here:
An arts-informed discussion of
sustainability in academic libraries**

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Kathy De Mey, Head of Reference and Instruction, Calvin College
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Photo by Grace Haynes



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Photo by Grace Haynes

M 242 .B29 P5 Score

M
242
.B29
P5
part

M 242 .B565 F36 Score & Part



Concubitus No. 4

Quasi adagio.

Cantabile con divozione

hold for all beats

hold for all beats

marcato



Photo by Grace Haynes



Please excuse
the poor quality
of these materials
but it is all that is
available for this work.
We apologize for
any inconvenience.

FAVOLA CONSTATANTE
For Piano Trio

Robert Xavier Rodriguez

I.

Andante affettuoso (♩ = 96)

Violin
Cello
Piano

f
subito
pp
mp
pp

8 bassa
quasi niente

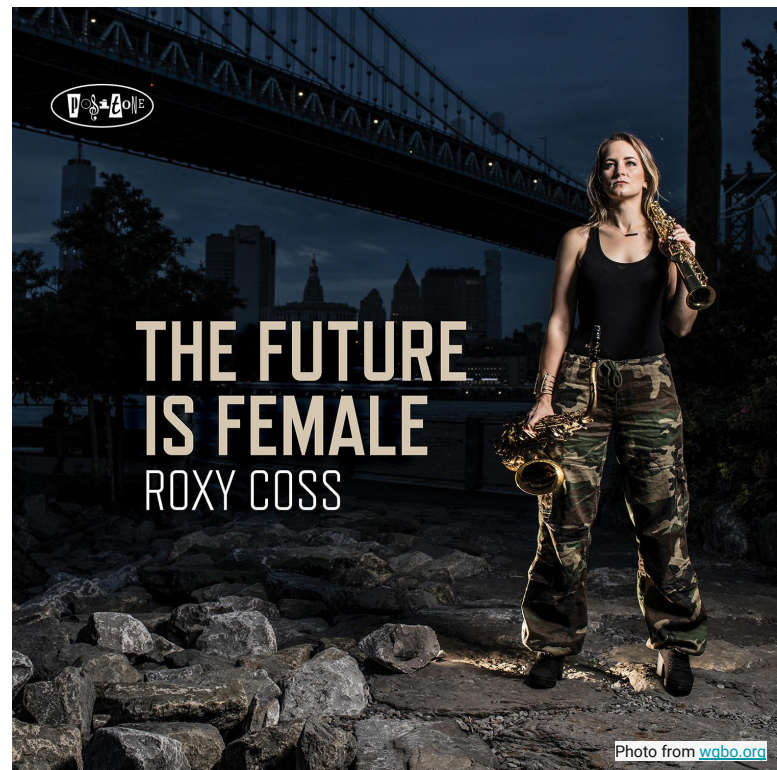
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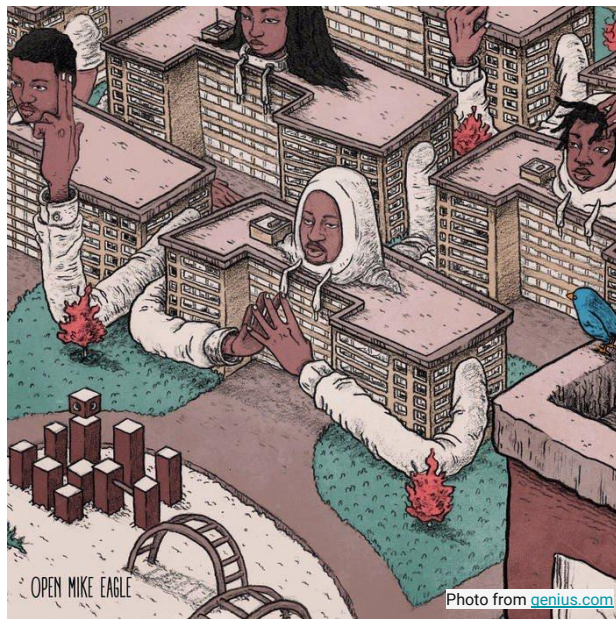
A

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7 29 261

BACH

СТЕРЕО A10 00117 007 П. ЧАЙ

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СТЕРЕО A10 00295 006 А. ВИВАЛДИ

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ETERNA

В

СТЕРЕО A10 00001 003 С. РАХМАНИНОВ КО

THE BEATLES

20 GREATEST HITS

ТШАИ

STEREO C10 29771 000 K. SHY

СТЕРЕО A10 00605 001 П. ЧАЙКОВ

PDU

STEREO C10 29063 000 W. A. M

СТЕРЕО A10 00537 009 Л. ВАН БЕТХОВ

STEREO A10 00641 002 THE

СТЕРЕО C10 20263 0

СТЕРЕО C10 28900 0

7-25

Photo by Umberto Cofini on Unsplash

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Calvin College - Hekman Library



Information Literacy (IL) Woven Into Arts Instruction



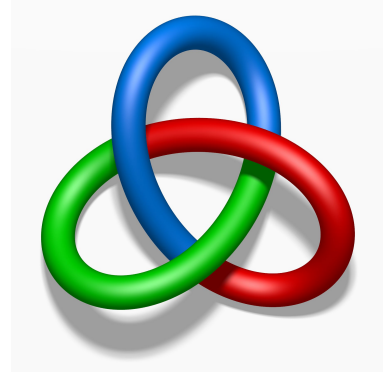
One library's journey - ongoing!

- ♪ CIC grant opportunity IL in the disciplines
- ♪ Calvin applies and is accepted
- ♪ Team of four goes to New Orleans, spring 2017
- ♪ Calvin plan for IL in the arts (LibGuide)
- ♪ Timeline: summer 2017 - summer 2018

Calvin Plan - Information Literacy in the Arts

Broad goals:

- ♪ Arts lead the way - offer a model to the campus during a time when arts seem to be in decline
- ♪ Emphasize that the research process is a creative process; this makes it “a natural” in the arts
- ♪ Intertwine three strands: digital technology, interdisciplinarity and IL (Create a model where departments reach out to each other)
- ♪ Build transfer: in from experience, out to other courses, then to career (IL connected to students’ everyday lives)



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tricolorability>

Arts Climate at Calvin College, 2010 - 2018

Positive changes

- ♪ Renovation of the Fine Arts Center, including new art gallery
- ♪ [Artist Collaborative](#)
- ♪ College [homepage showcases the arts](#)



Negative changes

- ♪ Major programs become minors
- ♪ Faculty cuts as well as faculty who leave not replaced



Current situation: Dean's Council for the Arts

Music 203 Assignment (Popular Music)

- ♪ Music and Identity: How is popular music used to create, reflect or represent social groups and subcultures?
- ♪ Music and Business: How is popular music shaped by the industry that surrounds it?
- ♪ Music and Technology: What is the relationship between music technologies and the art created within popular music?

Links to IL: The assignment was designed to focus on each of the primary IL goals from Calvin's plan.

(Images on this screen: adi-goldstein-349266-unsplash.jpg, neil-godding-179009-unsplash.jpg, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_popular_music)



Hoped-for Outcomes

- ♪ Had hoped to get a follow-up grant to fund Center for Social Research
 - Purpose was to assess how students experienced the assignment and their “uptake” (responses, attitudes)
- ♪ Plan B: how can we keep building momentum?
 - Redesigned assignment would still happen
 - Music professor would devise her own assessment
- ♪ Unforeseen circumstances in the music department - assessment “piece” never happened

Current Situation

IL Grants: Seeking faculty proposals

- ♪ Provost provides funds: 2 grants, \$500
- ♪ New or redesigned course components that address IL
- ♪ Proposals must include IL learning outcomes, role of librarian, assessment plan
- ♪ Other libraries that have used the same approach:
<http://lib.siena.edu/instruction/grants>;
<https://library.lafayette.edu/services-help/services/instruction-and-information-literacy/information-literacy-grants>

Dean's Council for the Arts

Building the arts community at Calvin

- ♪ Makeup of the council
- ♪ Council's role (replaced larger Arts Council)
- ♪ One day arts workshop; planning for 2018-19
- ♪ Theme for 2018-19: Create. Unite. Renew.



What Have We Learned? And How Does This Relate to Sustainability?

- ♪ The arts are alive at Calvin and sustainability efforts are in place; we have to find out where the conversations are happening
- ♪ Sustaining the implementation of our plan is key - not giving up when there are failures, setbacks
- ♪ Sustained work across several years with ILAC is paying off
- ♪ Knowing how to “push in” gently without making a nuisance of oneself is a skill

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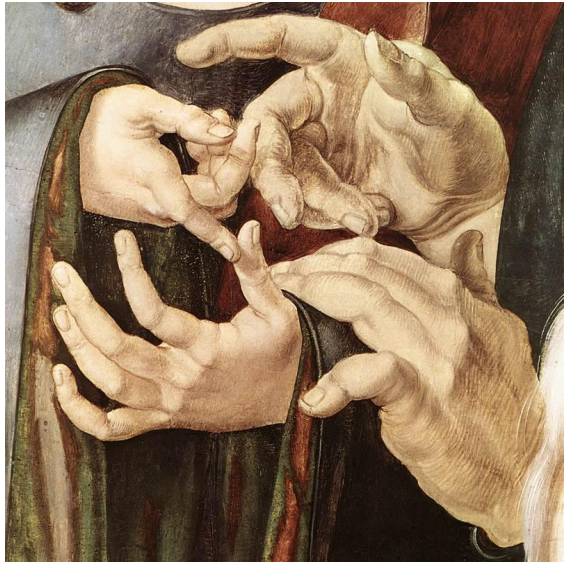
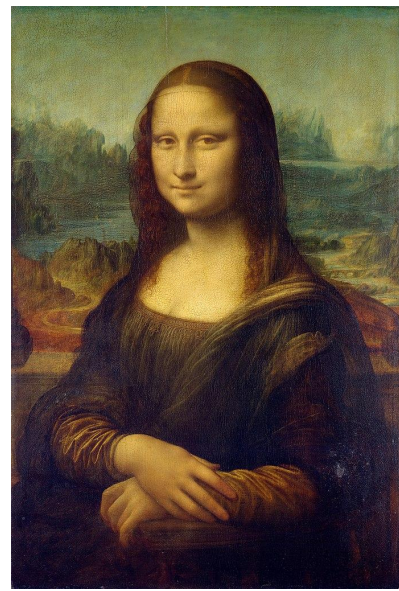
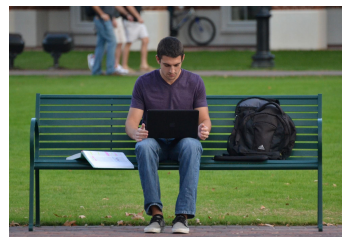
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Sabbatical Research

- Hope College, private liberal arts college, approx. 3,200 students
 - Accredited programs in both theatre and dance
- Theatre - Observed production meetings and rehearsals for a play
- Dance
 - Interviewed faculty choreographers
 - Questions of process and of research defined broadly
 - Observed choreographic rehearsals
 - Observed composition classes

Checking my Assumptions at the Door

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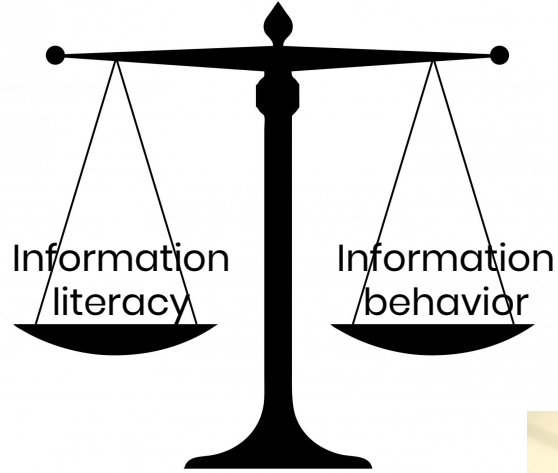




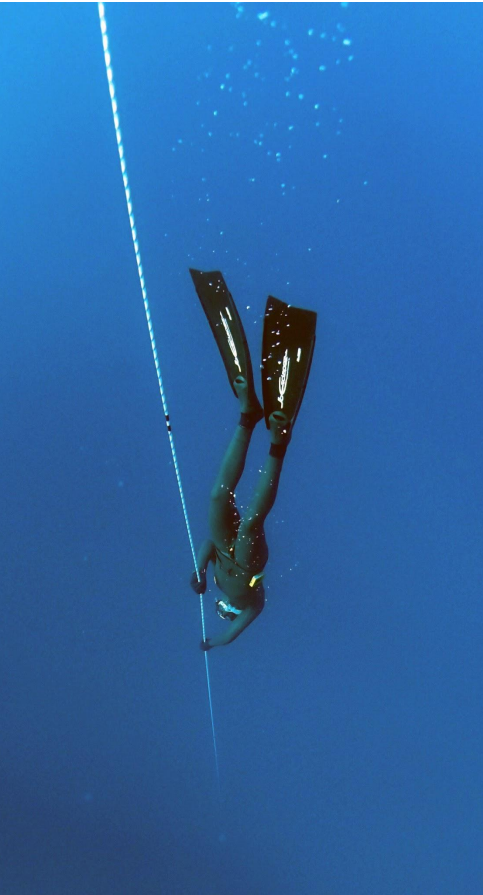
Katherine Sullivan, research displayed in *Jamia | Studio*, January 8th - February 9th, 2018, DePree Gallery, Hope College

“Those things that I learn along the way I like to think that I thread, very subtly, into the choreography. I’m never trying to really make a political point or even try to sway someone’s opinion one way or another about an idea [...], but I use it to kind of infuse moments or vignettes or gesture or something that might refer back to something I learned in the research, and it might not be obvious or apparent, but I know it’s there, and for me that lends an authenticity to what I’m creating.” (faculty choreographer)





Information Use as a Choice

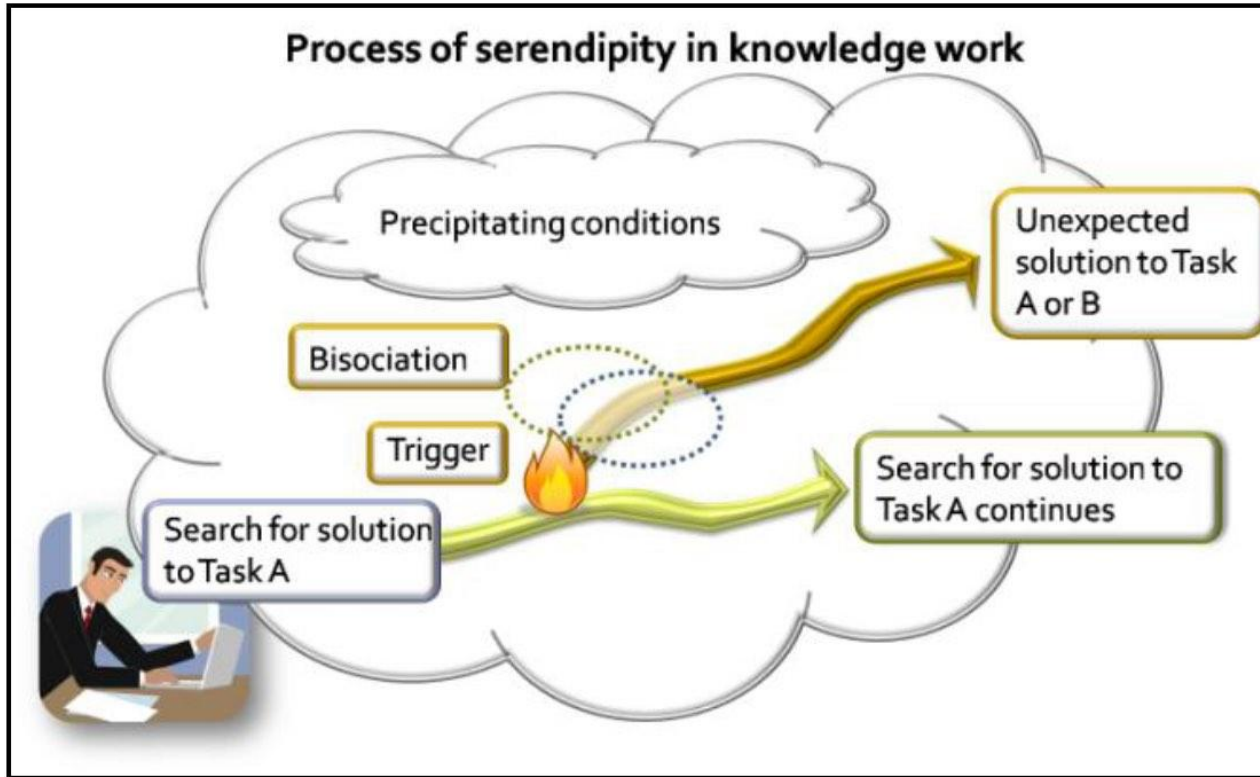


Information Use as a Choice

“I feel the need to to look up the definition of doubt right now.”

“The only part I didn't do is the deep deep research. I think I didn't want to, cuz I didn't want to get stuck in this. [...] It's like, OK I get it. I understand, but I want my own world [...]. Why do I need to follow the strict line? Let me color outside the lines.”

Serendipity as a Methodology



Serendipity as a Methodology

“I just keep my eyes and ears and brain open for anything I might come across during the normal day, whether it's a news article or a chapter in a book, or seeing a mother and daughter walking down the street”

“What I love about that process is that I don't just allow the music to wash over me, but I allow my daily life, because there are things that happen in life that inherently will probably really strike magically, in the moment. I might be driving and I see this leaf cross my windshield at the same time that the music does this, [*gesture*] which then makes my mind go in this direction. And had I not been doing that, it never would have happened.”

Human Networking

(after a referral from another colleague) “I went to the Blue Lake Radio Station and talked to [...] a lovely woman there and talked to her about my ideas, and so she gave me some music ideas.”

“Long story short, actually XX, two doors down was listening to a piece of music. I said “this is amazing! What is this?””

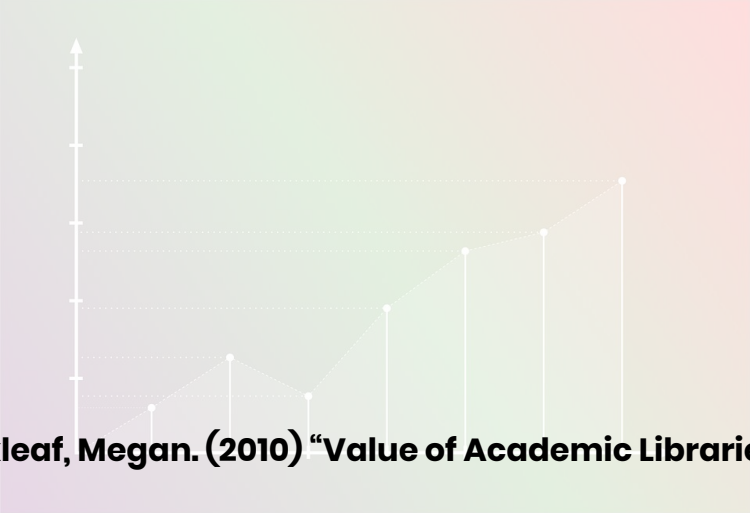
“Sometimes someone says ‘I need a piece of music that's really pretty piano and it's 5 1/2 minutes long.’ ‘Oh, I've got one of those!’ ”

“Typically it's recommendation, so last year it was XX who had all these interesting records. I went to his house. He played me all these old records which got me on a track to lead me to where I eventually went.”

TABLE 1. Descriptive Statistics of Participating PLDS 2012 Public Libraries (FY2011 results)

	Number of Reporting Libraries*	Total	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median
Population of legal service area	1,579	175,297,816	90	3,792,621	111,018	20,228
Registrations	1,455	93,234,730	80	2,215,157	64,079	12,230
Holdings	1,467	488,769,393	1,500	16,140,023	333,176	85,800
Total annual circulation	1,293	1,529,604,633	264	33,252,235	1,200,632	224,194
Print circulation	1,225	828,592,175	15	19,361,104	742,466	141,296
CD/DVD circulation	1,172	423,591,763	10	8,918,634	414,068	63,310
Other circulation	1,039	71,985,690	1	6,972,606	91,702	9,467
Electronic circulation	1,027	25,804,030	1	1,599,874	39,216	6,693
Annual renewals	1,084	309,138,042	10	12,223,443	511,818	78,252
In-library use of materials	1,084	129,219,902	3	9,136,468	273,192	29,409
Reference transactions	1,263	185,305,583	9	8,767,705	155,719	18,135
Library visits	1,280	827,706,945	458	18,352,210	669,666	156,096
Programs attendance	1,215	45,628,916	4	865,495	39,335	10,874
Number of programs	1,272	1,789,647	1	43,748	1,427	412
Interlibrary loan to other libraries	1,191	18,556,838	1	957,465	16,136	2,458

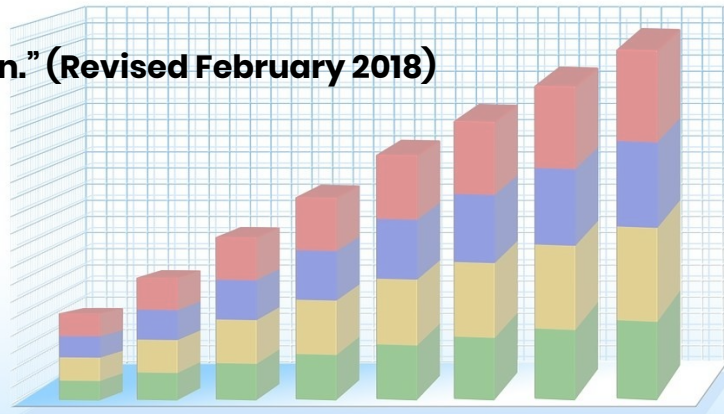
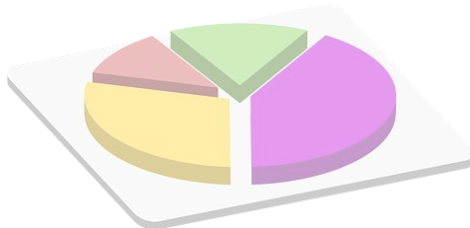
*Please note that the number of reporting libraries includes all libraries that provided a response to each question, including exceptions, such as not available (N/A). However, the total, minimum, maximum, mean, and median values are calculated with the exclusion of those libraries that reported a value of zero (0) or an exception value.



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