

Project UNLOC: An Interdisciplinary Bibliography for Literacy, Narrative, and Technology

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[T]he present jumbling of varieties of discourse has grown to the point where it is becoming difficult either to label authors (What is Foucault—historian, philosopher, political theorist? What is Thomas Kuhn—historian, philosopher, sociologist of knowledge?) or to classify works (What is George Steiner's *After Babel*—linguistics, criticism, culture history? What is William Gass's *On Being Blue*—treatise, causerie, apologetic?) (Geertz 166).

The study of narrative is no longer the province of literary specialists or folklorists borrowing their terms from psychology and linguistics, but has now become a positive source of insight for all the branches of human and natural science (Mitchell ix).

The academy is structured to keep us isolated. We work in separate departments, go to separate conferences, and publish in different journals. We seldom work together and everyone competes for limited resources (Pagnucci and Mauriello 22-23).

At the beginning of this bibliographic project, my goal was to map the territory of recent scholarly work in literacy, narrative, and technology and look at the intersections between these three disciplines to create a clearly categorized and defined list of resources in these three disciplines. Yet as the introductory quotes of Geertz and Mitchell show, this initial goal was not realizable because the more I searched for information regarding these topics, the more I found that other disciplines emerged and these initial categories started to blur. At that point, the most difficult challenge was,

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“How can I create a more contextualized picture that makes this bibliography more inclusive and rich for scholars and teacher practitioners working in literacy, technology, and narrative?” I eventually realized the need to take an interdisciplinary approach to this bibliographic work to incorporate valuable insights from fields such as art, sociology, anthropology, architecture, photography, ecology, literary theory, philosophy, and research methodology, among others. Drawing from Geertz’s and Mitchell’s calls for an interdisciplinary approach between the social, human, and natural sciences, I discarded my initial idea for categorizing this bibliography. Then I decided to list it in alphabetical order to allow those who would benefit from this work to borrow freely insights and methods of inquiry, cross disciplinary boundaries, and integrate into their work multiple perspectives, thus guiding scholars and teacher practitioners to a ‘blurring of genres’ (Geertz). In the end, to create discrete categories for the bibliography seemed unsuitable since the goal of Project UNLOC was an attempt to rethink disciplinary boundaries and build ‘a new academic heteroglossia’ as stated by Pagnucci and Mauriello in the introduction to this millennial issue of *Works and Days*. Thus, my final decision to organize this bibliography in an alphabetical order has a threefold purpose:

* To resist the positivistic tradition that demands us to reduce everything to discrete and neat categories and positions scholars as detached ‘loners’ working in an academic environment that keeps us isolated as echoed by Pagnucci and Mauriello in the introductory quote to this interdisciplinary bibliography. An understanding of the complexity and multifaceted dimension of human and social issues intertwined in narrative, literacy, and technology can’t avoid the ‘messiness’ of a project that embraces the study of human beings. The personal and the social of lived experience can’t be represented in statistical tables, chi-squares, or discrete categories with clear-cut answers or where scholars continue working in isolated academic territories—be it technology, literacy, or narrative. Project UNLOC calls for cross-fertilization and bondedness among social, human, and natural disciplines to open new paths that help scholars to grapple with issues that can’t be answered by the work of a ‘lone researcher’ within a compartmentalized academic environment.

* To provide space for other voices which are not part of UNLOC Project but whose work can not only help us rethink disciplinary boundaries but also shed light on the large question central to this project: what is the future of narrative discourse for the 21st century?

* To serve as a research tool for those who embark in similar research projects. Yet, I need to remind readers that this bibliography doesn't exhaust the number of studies published in many disciplines that may contribute insights to this issue of *Works and Days on The Future of Narrative Discourse: Internet Constructs of Literacy and Identity*.

Overall, my struggle as a bibliographer wasn't just the lay work of the researcher at the Library with 'hands-on' reading books, book reviews, and journal articles and searching for Web sites. The real work was a theoretical challenge of finding ways with 'mind-on' to blend our record of the knowledge that has been created for other scholars. This bibliography is more than just an alphabetical list of books, journal articles, and Web sites. If you look at the whole of the bibliography, then you see integration and interdisciplinarity. It's a way to begin to encounter a very rich picture of the scholarly world—the way you look determines what you see.

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Note: The complete bibliography is available online at the UNLOC Web site: <<http://gradeng.en.iup.edu/nickm/unloc/bibliography.htm>>.

Contributors

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Myka Vielstimmig is the electronic writing partnership of (in alphabetical order) Michael Spooner (Utah State University) and Kathleen Blake Yancey (Clemson University). **Vielstimmig** is German for 'many-voiced.' The portion of their text marked <Myka Players' online reflection> was written with John Barber (Texas Womens University) and Dene Grigar (Texas Womens University), Tina Perdue (Indiana University of Pennsylvania), and Mike Williamson (Indiana University of Pennsylvania).

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