

Design for Diversity

Project Brief
CNI Fall Meeting
December 2017, Washington, D.C.

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Who and thanks

Grant team

Julia Flanders

Cara Messina

Amanda Rust

Sarah Sweeney



Who and thanks

Advisory Board

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Grant team

Julia Flanders
Cara Messina
Amanda Rust
Sarah Sweeney

Library colleagues

Caroline Klibanoff
Jen Kleinman
Jennie Robbiano
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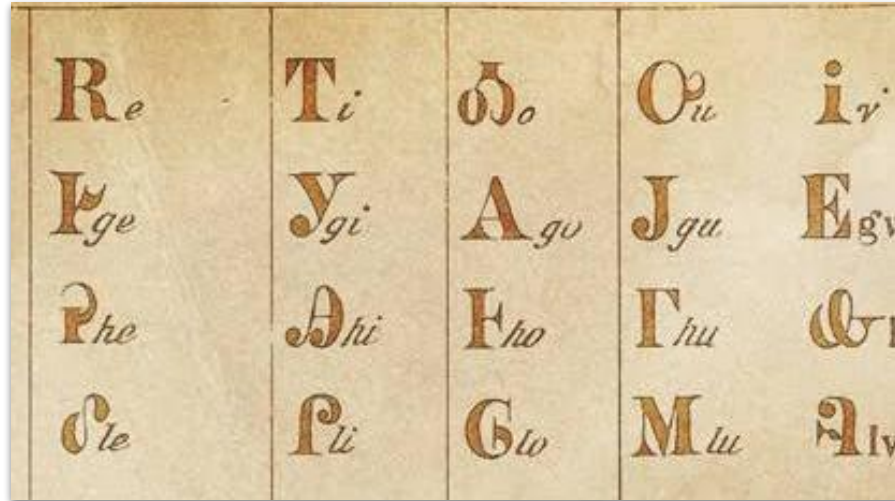
Case study presenters

Amber Billey	Sercan Şengün
Emily Drabinski	Ricky Punzalan
Karen Li Lun Hwang	Heather Moulaison Sandy
Sari Altschuler	Catherine Knight Steele
Mark Matienzo	Purdom Lindblad
	Molly Brown

Core Design Group

Erin Baucom	Armanda Lewis
Michelle Caswell	Purdom Lindblad
Zoe Chao	Deborah Maron
Themba Flowers	Sonoe Nakasone
Julia Gray	Katie Rawson
Lisa Hinchliffe	Todd Suomela

Why us?



Why now?

underrepresented

history

community archives

local

memory

social media

voices

participatory

collections

The Design for Diversity Project



Focuses on the ways in which information systems embody and reinforce cultural norms.

Asks how we might design systems that account for diverse cultural materials and ways of knowing.

Project process

- Recruit case studies (ongoing)
- Scan environment and review literature
- Host opening forum (October 2017)
- Recruit and coordinate Core Design Group work (March 2018)
- Produce drafts for Critical Review Partners (early Summer 2018)
- Host forum to publicly release/review Toolkit (late Summer 2018)
- Release Toolkit and white paper (November 2018)
- Partner with DLF, educators, and... **magic!**

Prior work

Doris Hargrett Clack

Prior work

Philip Agre



Prior work

User interface

Data structures and models, vocabularies

Software applications

Network

Communication and interaction protocols

Operating systems

Programming languages, character encoding

Hardware and chip design

Designing a participatory forum

<http://dsg.neu.edu/d4dforum2017>

- Case studies: relatively short, and many
- Encouragement and methods for taking shared notes
- Prompts for several kinds of audience discussion, writing, and participation
- Livestream and dedicated monitors for Twitter

What we learned

- Forget the stack
 - And tighten scope
- Who is centered, who is unmarked?
- Understand who benefits
- Reappropriation and extraction
- Data is the “new oil”

What we learned

- Redefine “efficient” and “optimized”
- Ethic of pace
- Assume project members will change
- Ask more from commercial systems
- Recognize multiple forms of expertise

Next steps



Like events imagined and enunciated against the continuity of time, data are imagined and enunciated against the seamlessness of phenomena. We call them up out of an otherwise undifferentiated blur.

Lisa Gitelman and Virginia Jackson. (2013) "Introduction" in Lisa Gitelman, ed. *Raw Data is an Oxymoron*. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press.

Nothing -- no laboratory result or field-camp speculation -- can replace the rich, complex texture, the credibility, of something that takes place "out there".

[...]

[Some events] may be of no **statistical** importance. It may not be possible, in other words, to generalize about all bears from these incidents. But such events emphasize the resourcefulness of the individual bear and the range of capability in the species; or they may reveal an unusual technique widespread only in a certain population. These events underscore something critical in the biology of large predators: the range of capability in the species. No matter how long you watch, you will not see all it can do.

Barry Lopez. (1986) *Arctic Dreams*.
New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, p. 96,
quoted in Humanist (2015) by Willard McCarty.

Thanks!

<http://dsg.neu.edu/d4dCNI>

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