

This is a transcript of the video clip “Learning about Digital Media from the DALN” from the interview with Dr. Cynthia Selfe in Samuel Head, “A Scholarly Legacy: Professor Cynthia Selfe and the Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives” published in *Kairos: Rhetoric, Technology, Pedagogy*, 22(1), available at <http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/22.1/interviews/head>.

Sam:

What do you think people can learn about digital media and technology from the DALN?

Dr. Selfe:

Well, I think, first, people tell stories about using computers and computer environments to read and compose, just like they tell stories about reading and composing in libraries or at home or anywhere else. And so, I think at this point in time we're at a very interesting point in history where we're making the transition from... making "a" transition from print and alphabetic literacy to digital literacy. I mean that's happening at many levels and in many cultures around the world. Computer networks are one of the factors that contribute to globalized sharing of knowledge, right? Not that they're... not that computers are available to everyone, but it's one of the factors that reaches across conventional geopolitical, linguistic, cultural borders. So, it seems to me that if you don't study that transition, you'll lose the sense of what it was like before, what it's like now, and what it's going to be like in the future. If nobody is collecting narratives about that, how do you remember, and then how you compare, and then have you understand changes that are going to be going forward. And I think that's the value of a project like the DALN. It exists in a point in history where there's a lot of change in the way we compose, and the way we read, and the environments within which we do so, and the purposes for which we do so.