

This is a pre-print version of Amber Buck and Hannah Bellwoar's "Crafting Online Spaces: Identity & Materiality" published in *Kairos: Rhetoric, Technology, Pedagogy*, 19(3), available at <http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/19.3/interviews/buck-bellwoar>.

Hannah | Networks Video Script

I was a fairly isolated knitter when I first started out. Occasionally I'd go to a meeting of stitch and bitch that was local. I found out about stitch and bitch because that was one of the first books I ever used, and actually, that I used to teach myself to knit. And so, I knew about stitch and bitch and that there were local meetings. When I found one in my area, I would attend on occasion, but most of the time I would just knit at home. I would knit while watching TV in the evenings to relax after a long day of teaching and taking classes in grad school. But after I joined Ravelry, I started to become a more social knitter. Eventually I started attending retreats that I found out about through Ravelry. I went to different local knitting groups. I also knit on Saturdays sometimes at a local yarn store in town.

So what I like most about Ravelry really is this connection, these different connections I make with other knitters. Even when I'm not on Ravelry for a few days when I'm doing other things, whenever I come back and start reading the forums again, and writing on the different forums, and participating in the groups, I feel really connected to the other knitters, who have kind of become my friends. And some people that I've met in person really have become my friends.

I feel really inspired by the projects other people knit and that they post on Ravelry. This helps keep me motivated to knit myself. It helps me feel that I'm not alone in my knitting. I feel connected to a community of people who get me. They understand why I love yarn, they understand why I love handknit socks so much. They understand the importance of knitting in my life because knitting is really important in their lives. I don't really know how to talk about this without sounding really cheesy, but I feel like I've made connections that are really strong and important in my life. I feel like the connections that I've made on Ravelry help me feel confident. They help me feel like I fit in and like I belong to a community.