

This is a transcript of the video clip “Communal Projects and Scholarly Advice” 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:

So how does your work with the DALN fit into your other scholarly work?

Dr. Selfe:

[Laughs] Here's what I would say, I would say that at this point my career, I'm going to retire in May of this year [2017], and what I was able -- what I've been able to do with the DALN is to do a project that's not for me but that's for the profession at large. And I like doing that kind of project. And the same thing with the Computers in Composition Digital Press: if you can do projects that are for the benefit of the profession at large, there's a great deal of satisfaction in that. And I think it leaves a legacy that -- I hope it leaves a legacy -- that far out lives the more conventional scholarly work that I've done, the articles I've written, and, you know, I've written enough journal articles to kill a horse, and books and the whole thing. Those things are important, but those things, I think, pale because there's always new research coming out, there's always new work coming out, those books are going to get old, the journal articles are going to get old, etc. But institutions like the DALN that benefit the profession can live on if there are people to look after them and sustain them and contribute to them and participate in them. And the same with the Computers and Composition Digital Press. I would say that it is up to the next generation of scholars to contribute to those efforts. And I like to think that every scholar will do a little bit of tending of the communal garden, looking after things like the Digital Archive, looking after things like new presses, because each of those projects takes a lot of work. Sandra Pearls' Writing Tree. They don't persist and evolve on their own, they require input and effort, and the ideas of individuals. And while young scholars are busy writing their own articles in their own books because they have to do that for tenure and promotion, I hope they save a little bit of time as well to contribute to those more those communal projects that provide ground for the whole profession to prosper.