

This is a transcript of the video clip "The Impact of 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 a rhetorical significance do you feel the Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives has made?

Dr. Selfe:

I'm not sure this is a rhetorical difference, I can tell you what I'm proudest of about the DALN and what I think it's accomplished within our field. I think we now have, as a profession, a common corpus of literacy narratives that anybody can study, and that everybody can study, and that we can come at from so many different angles. Because those stories are there, and they're recorded for history, and they're preserved and they're available to people who want to use those or to contribute to the to the collection. And that, in itself, is an important professional contribution, I think. I'm very proud of that particular contribution.

But even more important, I think it gives the profession an understanding of what can happen when you take on these big humanities projects, where the effort of creating them, and the burden of creating the project, not just the money, but the effort of maintaining it and creating it and contributing to it and then using it is shared by many people in the profession. And it shows what we can do when we put our heads together in a collective effort to create something that everybody can benefit from if they have a connection to the internet. And to me, that's a tremendous lesson, and I'm not sure that people really understand the importance of that lesson. I think people like Sandra Pearl understand. She was -- after we started the DALN, for instance, the Writing Tree project that she started was also a crowdsourced project. And she came to me and asked what had we learned from doing the DALN that would translate into success for their Writing Tree. And I think she understood the importance of that model of big humanities, what can we do together, collectively, that the whole profession can benefit from. And I think that people at the 4Cs, especially I might say the staff members of 4Cs, the people like Jackie Biddles, who were conference organizers, or Eileen Maley, who have always made a place for the DALN, because they understand that that historical record that we're sedimented right now will be available for study and years to come. And I think that is key, I think it's absolutely key. If we don't do it, who is going to do it? And if we don't do it now, when are we ever going to start an effort like that?

So I guess the last thing that I'm happiest about is that somebody like Ben McCorkle and Michael Harker, Ben at Ohio State Mansfield and -- I'm sorry Ohio State Marion and Michael Harker at Georgia State, will be the new directors of the DALN and take that forward in time. So that the effort goes on because we never know who's going to use those archives -- these archives -- who's going to use it in the future, what benefit it's going to bring, what contributions it can make. And I think that that -- I think carrying forward it's going to become increasingly valuable