

This is a transcript of the video clip “Intersections of Digital Literacy and Media” 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 this archive, it’s a *digital* archive of literacy narratives, and you’ve mentioned why having this digital archive has provided this great access and collaboration. But how do you feel the worlds of digital studies and literacy intersect or collide?

**Dr. Selfe:**

Yeah, from the time when the first fully assembled micro computers came on the market, the popular market, I don't think from that time forward we could really talk about literacy practices and values without talking about digital contexts, because digital contexts changed and altered and shaped literacy practices and values so dramatically from the very first. It was speed, reach, extension. It was the velocity with which communications went different places. And that's not to say that everybody had access, or that everybody has access to this day because they don't. Access is differentially aligned along existing social formations like age, race, class, sometimes gender still in different places in the world. But nonetheless computers have, it's opened up all kinds of environments and networks within which communications can circulate, and be distributed, and delivered, and interpreted, and composed in different media, using different modalities, and then exchanged with different people. I think that if you, today, if you think you can talk about reading and composing without talking about digital environments, you'd be missing a huge swath of the literacy practices and understandings that people are engaged in during the 21st century.