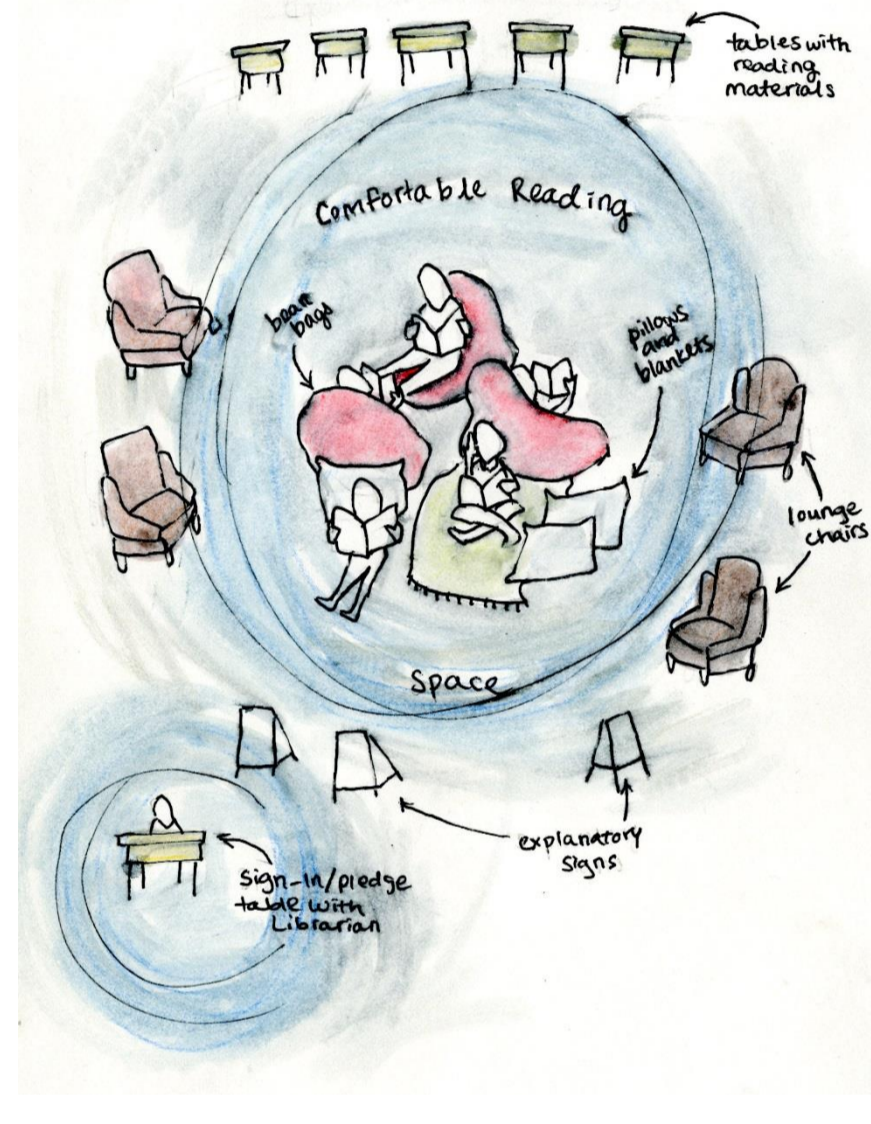


The Class

For the Fall 2014 semester, Mark Sample (Associate Professor, and Director of Digital Studies) teamed up with Caitlin Christian-Lamb (Associate Archivist) on an assignment for his DIG 350: History and Future of the Book course.

There were 10 students enrolled in the course, held at Davidson College. Davidson is a small liberal arts college of 2,000 undergraduate students, located in a small town near Charlotte, North Carolina. The 10 students were: Cody Barnhill, William Coggan, Violet Degnan, Michael DeSimone, DiemTien Le, Sara Rees, Thomas Rocca, Karen Sims, Sophia Smith, and Brian Wiora.

MOBILE LIBRARY DESIGN: location: Student Union Atrium



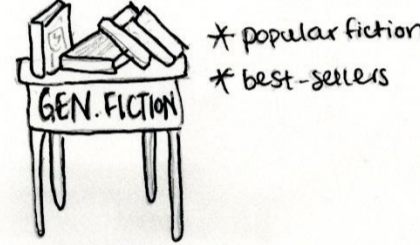
Example Tables



- * Biographies
- * True Crime
- * Science

Elements

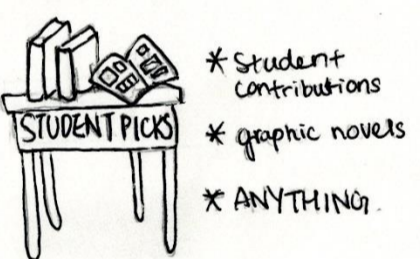
- Casual browsing layout
- organized by genre (loosely)
- Based on student reading preferences
- limited selection for intensive rather than extensive reading and transport purposes.



- * popular fiction
- * best-sellers

Contributions?

- * Davidson Library
- * Students, Faculty, Staff, community
- * Davidson Public Library
- * Student contributions
- * graphic novels
- * ANYTHING.



The Partnership

Sample and Christian-Lamb were discussing a shared interest in DIY libraries, book culture, and experimental pedagogy at a campus gathering, and decided to collaborate on an assignment for Sample's upcoming course.

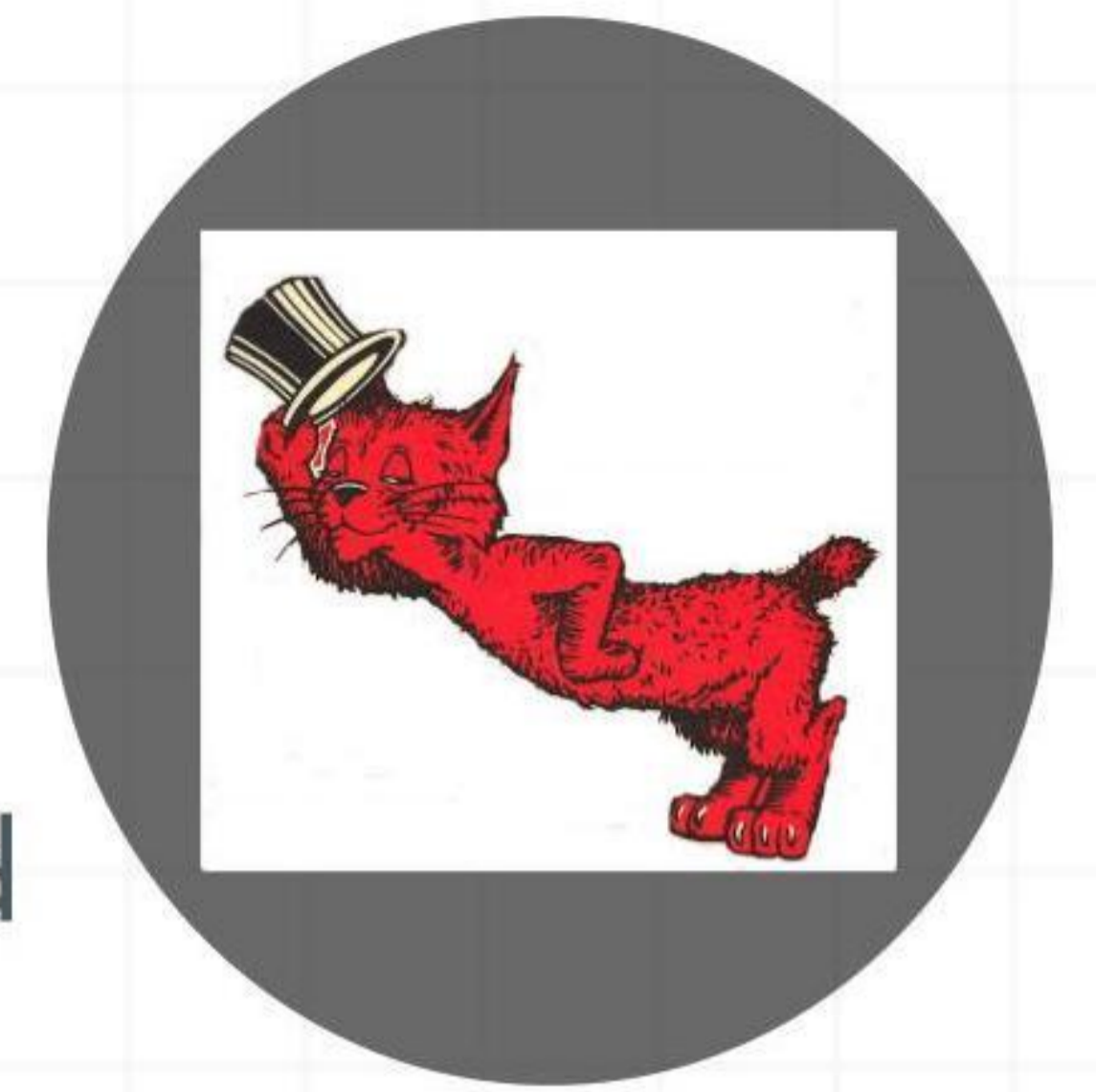
In order to scaffold the assignment, Christian-Lamb set the readings for three class sessions, and helped craft the assignment prompt. The readings and class discussions focused on library history and core functions, DIY libraries, librarian activism and outreach activities, and library design.

See class syllabus, assigned readings, quotes from student designs, and other supplemental material at <http://bit.ly/histandfuture>.

Collaborative, Speculative, Possible Technologically-Enhanced

Mobile Libraries

or How Davidson College Students Learned to Stop Worrying & Love the Library



Caitlin Christian-Lamb

The Assignment

As part of their coursework, the 10 enrolled undergraduate students were asked to come up with speculative designs of a "technologically-enhanced mobile library," with the goal of answering the question: "What kind of mobile book-sharing platform would build reading and community in Davidson?"

The assignment was worth 15% of each student's grade, The concept of the technologically-enhanced mobile library as described to the class was a combination community bookshelf, literacy outreach module, and experimental book-based playground of sorts, with many of the core elements and purposes left to students to define and expand upon.

The students were required to restate the prompt as they understood and interpreted it, define what "mobile," "book," "sharing," "platform," "reading," "community," and "Davidson" meant in their mobile, speculative, technologically-enhanced library, and create a visual to demonstrate what the library would look like.

Student Outputs

The 10 students interpreted the prompt in diverse ways, although there were a few patterns:

- Davidson as community – almost all of the students selected a campus-based potential library
- Questioning the "reading as pleasure" construct – nearly every student also mentioned that reading for fun is not a high priority for Davidson students. One student succinctly stated: "For me, the original question presumed an assumption that I do not think is justified, namely, that people have interest in reading for pleasure."
- Social media – several designs incorporated the popularity of social media with students, particularly YikYak. One student based his design, a mobile archive of Davidson student life, on the concept of social media as the new pleasure reading.
- Some students broke the pattern – Violet Degnan and Karen Sims designed mobile libraries that were event- or existing-community based, and Sophia Smith and Sara Rees each based their designs in trucks or buses – Smith proposed a maker bus to teach area citizens how to use various technology, and Rees proposed a combined food truck/DIY library.

Mobile Reading Community Schematic

