Thinking Outside the Book

Experimenting with Creative Tool and Object Librarianship at the Banff Centre

Marianne R. Williams
ARLIS/NA + VRA Joint Conference
Seattle, Washington
New Voices in the Profession Panel
March 11, 2016

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mariannenewilliams.ca
Libraries
Paul D. Fleck Library and Archives, the Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta

Archives
VTape, Toronto, Ontario

Museums
Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen, Denmark

National Parks
Banff National Park, Banff, Alberta

All images by Marianne R. Williams, 2016
Traditional reference service model
The Creative Tool and Object Librarianship reference model
The Black Rat which was the common house rat until driven off by the Brown Rat, came originally from Central Asia. From there it made its way into Europe and about 1844 to America. It is 7 or 8 inches long with a tail of 6 inches. Its color is very dark, often nearly black above, lead colored beneath, with brown feet. White individuals of this species are not uncommon.

The Black Rat is smaller than the Brown Rat, and rather cleaner in its habits, preferring the upper parts of houses to the cellars, sewers and damp and dirty places where the Brown Rat lives.

Rats increase very fast, having 3-15 young at a birth. If means were not taken to destroy them they would soon overrun the country; but they are hunted by men, dogs, weasels and cats, and they kill the young and the weak of their own kind.
“I propose a new library service in **non-book lending**, where patrons are invited [...] to access information through an innovative library model of borrowing and lending of items such as tools, materials, clothing, and other objects.

Through this project, patrons will be encouraged to borrow and lend items that **inspire experimentation, curiosity, confusion, and creativity**.

This “library of things” could also include non-fragile archival objects, **encouraging engagement and interaction with non-book materials that could inform research and artistic practice** at the Banff Centre.”
Research Methodology

Creative Tool and Object Library Survey
This survey was designed by Marianne Williams, Library Practicum at the Banff Centre, to gather information and suggestions about the development of a Creative Tool and Object Library in 2015-2016.

The survey will take approximately 5 minutes of your time. Participation is anonymous and voluntary. Non-response to any question is acceptable. You may withdraw consent to participate at any time.

The personal information collected through this survey will be used to evaluate and develop a Creative Tool and Object Library at the Paul D. Fleck Library and Archives at the Banff Centre. The information will be protected by the provisions of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have any questions about the collection or use of this information, please contact: Marianne Williams, Library Practicum, phone: 403-762-6035, email: marianne.williams@banffcentre.ca, or Suzanne Rackover, Manager at the Paul D. Fleck Library and Archives, phone: 403-762-6265, email: suzanne.rackover@banffcentre.ca

Library Survey
Have you ever started mixing up cake and realized you need a different cake pan? Or started hanging up pictures and you’re missing a hammer? What if you could run to the library and borrow the tools that you need? Library Practicum Marianne Williams is developing a Creative Tool and Object Library at the Banff Centre in 2016, and would love your feedback. The survey is open for one more week.

For rent | Three bedroom townhouse
Available May 1, 2016 | $1150 including cable + utilities
This is an unfurnished unit with four appliances. A security deposit equal to one month’s rent is required. This is a one year lease with the option for renewal to a maximum of 3 years. Salaried and full time hourly Banff Centre paid employees are eligible to apply. Successful applications for the townhouse will be based primarily on job related
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timestamp</th>
<th>User</th>
<th>Created/Updated</th>
<th>Creative Tool Library</th>
<th>Library Object Library</th>
<th>Are there any projects or other tool libraries that you have heard of that use similar ideas of sharing and borrowing?</th>
<th>The following is a list of potential objects for the Creative Tool and Object Library. Please select all you would consider borrowing?</th>
<th>Do you have any other ideas for objects that should be included in the library?</th>
<th>Do you have items you might consider donating to the Creative Tool and Object Library?</th>
<th>If yes or maybe, why?</th>
<th>Do you have any other information you'd like to share? Additional questions?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03/11/2015 15:01:21</td>
<td>User</td>
<td>03/11/2015 15:01:21</td>
<td>Typewriter, Bookmaking supplies, Knife sharpener, Knitting needles, Sewing machine, Floss, Cake pans, Muffin pan, Glue gun, Flashlight/Headlamp, Fishing reel, Picnic set, Baskets, Maps or Hiking Trail Guides</td>
<td>Geo tracking or GPS system, Dehydrator</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>I think this sounds like an exciting and wonderful opportunity for the Banff Centre and I really hope I get the chance to use this service during my time here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/11/2015 12:50:10</td>
<td>User</td>
<td>04/11/2015 12:50:10</td>
<td>Typewriter, Bookmaking supplies, Tarot Cards, Knife sharpener, Hammer, Knitting needles, Screwdriver, Sewing machine, Telescope, Pizza machine, Cookie cutters, Cake pans, Muffin pan, Glue gun, Button maker, Flashlight/Headlamp, Fishing reel, Picnic set, Baskets, Maps or Hiking Trail Guides, Bearbell, Retractable hiking poles</td>
<td>Crocheting needles, Knitting looms, wood burner</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>I think this sounds like an exciting and wonderful opportunity for the Banff Centre and I really hope I get the chance to use this service during my time here.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/11/2015 12:57:05</td>
<td>User</td>
<td>04/11/2015 12:57:05</td>
<td>Halifax Tool Library, NSCAD Multimedia Centre, Atlantic Filmmakers</td>
<td>Bookmaking supplies, Tarot Cards, Knife sharpener, Hammer, Sewing machine,</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>I think this sounds like an exciting and wonderful opportunity for the Banff Centre and I really hope I get the chance to use this service during my time here.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quantitative Data

Have you heard of a tool library before?

- Yes
- No
- I think so, but I don't really understand how it would work.

Number of responses per item in CTOL survey:

- Tarot Cards
- Muffin tin
- Screwdriver
- Fishing reel
- Hammer
- Typewriter
- Cookie cutters
- Picnic set basket
- Bearbells
- Knife sharpener
- Pasta machine
- Cake pans
- Flashlight/Headlamp
- Button Maker
- Knitting needles
- Glue gun
- Retractable hiking poles
- Bookmaking supplies
- Telescope
- Maps or Hiking Trail Guides
- Sewing machine
Other items field analysis
Qualitative Data

“I’m sure I have things kicking around that might be useful.”

“It could be a great way to centralize a lot of ‘things’ strewn about campus that can be hard to access but useful to staff/artists/practicums when they need them.”

“[I]t’s important especially with so many people who are transient workers [...] to be able to access things instead of constantly buying and ditching.”
“A pasta machine is often used in printmaking as a makeshift tool - you might want to consider specifying exactly what the tool’s intended purpose is so that there aren’t chemicals (like glue or dye) that can contaminate someone’s lovely pasta.”
“Bearbells are completely useless objects and have been scientifically proven that they do nothing to deter bears. Only tourists use them. Wouldn’t be worth having them in the collection I think.”
What objects got into the CTOL?
(CaABSFA) 146660

- Date: 160127
- Dist: n
- Dates: __
- Ctry: xx
- Cont: __
- Pub Conf: 0
- Fest: 0
- Ind: 0
- Fict: 0
- Blog: __
- Lang: eng
- MR: __
- Src: __

040 __ __ $b eng $l en $d rda $a CNTBC
090 __ __ $a CTOL $b .001
245 0 0 $a Knitting needles. $b [object library]
300 __ __ $a knitting needles, crochet hooks; $c 20 cm
336 __ __ $a text $b txt $l 2 rdacomp
337 __ __ $a unmediated $b n $l 2 rdamedia
338 __ __ $a volume $b nc $l 2 rdacarrier
500 __ __ $a This kit contains 1 set of US size 9 (5.5 mm) knitting needles, 1 US size 10 7/8 (7.5 mm) crochet hook, and five US size 10 1/2 (6.5 mm) multi-use crochet hooks/knitting needles. Made of sustainable birch, these needles are warm and smooth for knitting and crochet projects.
650 0 0 $a Knitting $l 9 bk
690 0 0 $a Creative tool and object library $l 9 bk
710 __ __ $a Brittany Knitting
700 1 0 $l 9 bk
949 __ __ $l 9 bk
Knitting needles. [object library]

Description: knitting needles, crochet hooks; 20 cm

Notes: This kit contains 1 set of US size 8 (5.5 mm) knitting needles, 1 US size 10 7/8 (7.5 mm) crochet hook, and five US size 10 1/2 (6.5 mm) multi-use crochet hooks. Made of sustainable birch, these needles are warm and smooth for knitting and crochet projects.

Added Author: Brittany Knitting.

Copy holding information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Call No.</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Banff Centre Library</td>
<td>Creative Tool and Object Library</td>
<td>CTCL.001</td>
<td>Checked in</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Format: HTML Plain text Delimited

Subject: Knitting needles. [object library]

Email to: [Send]
Creative Tool and Object Library Launch

Paul D. Fleck
Library and Archives
Monday, Feb. 29, 6pm
Refreshments will be served
Questions?
Comments?

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