Supporting Creative Practice in a (mostly) Liberal Arts Library

Alex Chappell
Arts & Humanities Librarian and Team Leader | Claremont Colleges Library
ARLIS/NA Conference 2018
Our landscape

One library serving a consortium of 7 independent institutions:
5 undergraduate liberal arts colleges and 2 graduate schools
RE:BOOK Annual Program
creative re-use of donated books

2012–2015: altered books contest
RE:BOOK 2016

Collaboration focus:
Comp zine workshop co-sponsored by a zine class
RE:BOOK 2017

STEAM focus:
collage & paper circuits workshop
Making the Digital Real
Online Resources Art Installation Project

A semester-long, grant-funded collaboration in Spring 2017 between

• 2 librarians
• 1 studio art professor
• 10 students in “Materiality, Craft, and Labor” sculpture class

Goal: Students design and build a site-specific art installation in the library that physically manifests library online resources.

what are e-resources?
sketching exercise

database exploration
exercise

design-thinking
workshop
QRcade
interactive scavenger hunt where student-made artist’s books shelved in the stacks lead to online resources
Instrument of Perpetual Discovery
mechanism that projects online resources onto a book page; turning the page triggers a new resource