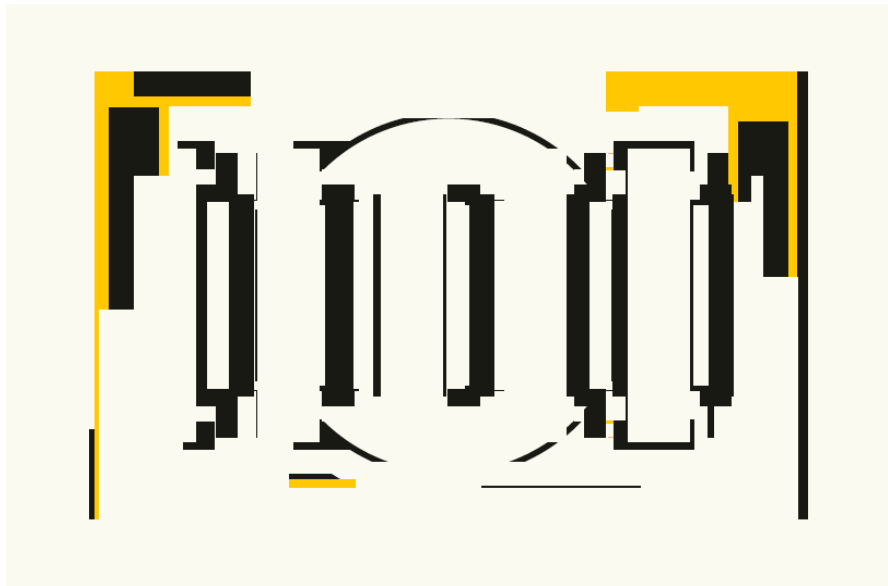


TRACT

Vol.1, n.1
August 2024



Tract, n. a short pamphlet on some religious, political, or other topic, suitable for distribution or for purposes of propaganda¹

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mctavish.work/library

2024, Duluth, Minnesota

¹ Oxford English Dictionary. (2024) Tract. In *OED*. Retrieved from https://www.oed.com/dictionary/tract_n1?tab=meaning_and_use#17856020 7/25/2024

What's up with this?

April 2024 - May 2025

The Kathryn A. Martin Library welcomes Duluth artist Kathy McTavish as our Artist in Residence. Really in residence. This includes an office and a key to the library.

We look forward to a period of exploration and explanation. An ode to libraries and a debunking of stereotypes. Listening, interacting, thinking.

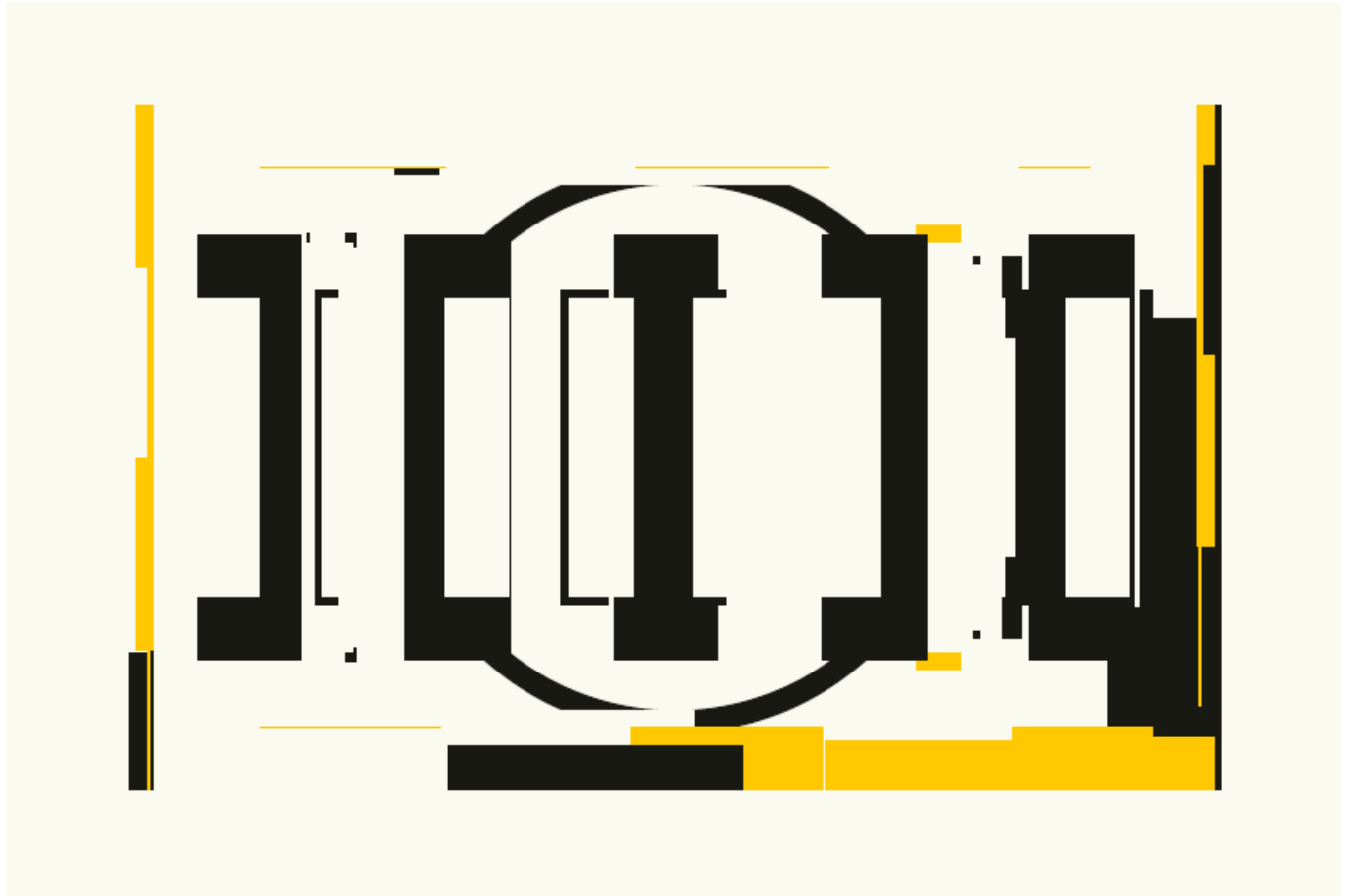
This is about human-powered thinking, human-connected storytelling, human-organized objects, human-made knowledge.

Actual Intelligence.

m.david



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citations

pathways ::: knots ::: pivot points ::: knowledge
graph ::: compass map breadcrumbs ::: trapeze
::: spider ::: rocky trails :::

encounters with text ::: stumbling about :::
clambering | climbing ::: a chronology :::
learning to swim

MyBib Contributors. "MLA Citation Generator - Easy & Free - (8th Edition, 2019)." *MyBib*, 26 May 2019, www.mybib.com/tools/mla-citation-generator.

Roberto, K. R. (Keller R.). *Radical Cataloging : Essays at the Front*. McFarland & Co., 2008.

Wright, Alex. *Cataloging the World : Paul Otlet and the Birth of the Information Age*. Oxford University Press, 2014.

Budd, John. *Knowledge and Knowing in Library and Information Science : A Philosophical Framework*. Scarecrow Press, 2001.
Permalink <http://34.251.3.23:2082/record=b1079317~S11>
UMD Library Shelves ::: Z665.B918 2001

Zeng, Marcia Lei, and Jian Qin. *Metadata*. Second edition., Neal-Schuman, 2016.
UMD Library Shelves ::: Z666.7 .Z46 2016

Wright, Alex. *Glut : Mastering Information through the Ages*. Joseph Henry Press, 2007.
UMD Library Shelves ::: Z666.5.W75 2007

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Annotated Bibliography (anarchist version)

What I read June-July 2024

Entries in reverse chronological order

Citation style: whatever gets the point across

Not comprehensive

First Lies Win. author, publisher, not noted. Borrowed from UMD Library.

This is your basic mystery/thriller, serviceable. I'll never understand why this is the kind of thing that relaxes me.

Kira Schukar. *'Sissy' as in Sister*. Minneculture series. KFAI Radio. Minneapolis. 2024. Podcast. <https://kfai.org/minneculture-sissy-as-in-sister/>

This podcast covers a time, place, group of people that I was a part of in the late 1970s, early 1980s in Minneapolis. It is exceedingly odd to be treated as history when one is still very much alive. My primary issue with the author is that she didn't speak with key players who were likely to be readily available for interviews.

Kuhlthau, C.C. (2004). "Model of the information search process." *Seeking meaning: A process approach to library and information services* (2nd ed.), p.44-51. Libraries Unlimited.

Provides an idealized version of the research process, well explained, and includes thoughts, feelings, strategies, and "mood", as well as actions. Those additions are the most valuable. The research process depicted here feels very tied to analog information sources, helped me articulate where some of the struggles in our current information landscape come from.

Fuchs, B., & Sharp, D. (2022). "From pints to barrels: Helping topic-focused students see the bigger picture." *LOEX Conference Proceedings 2015*. LOEX. <https://commons.emich.edu/loexconf2015/26/>

Described some great activities to use with students who are working on topic scoping. Unfortunately it only included an example of one of the activities. Still worth reading for some on the ground ideas like "describe your topic."

m.david

Artist

Residing in the library, for the time being, the artist is an observer, a witness, to this amorphous organism. The outside view, the inside view. Watching. The people who use the library building. Use the materials, use the services. The people who work for the library. Build the processes, make them run, unstick the gears. And read.

The artist, in residence, collects observations, perceiving. How it all works. Makes sense in a new way, or doesn't make sense in a new way. Connects to larger concepts, or zooms in to the frustrations of finding the button that opens the pdf. Why is this book next to that one? Classification, call numbers. But why, though?

The haunted house of it all. The books speaking to each other. The constant circulation below the surface. The geometry of it, the physics, the philosophy. Pools of thought. and feeling.

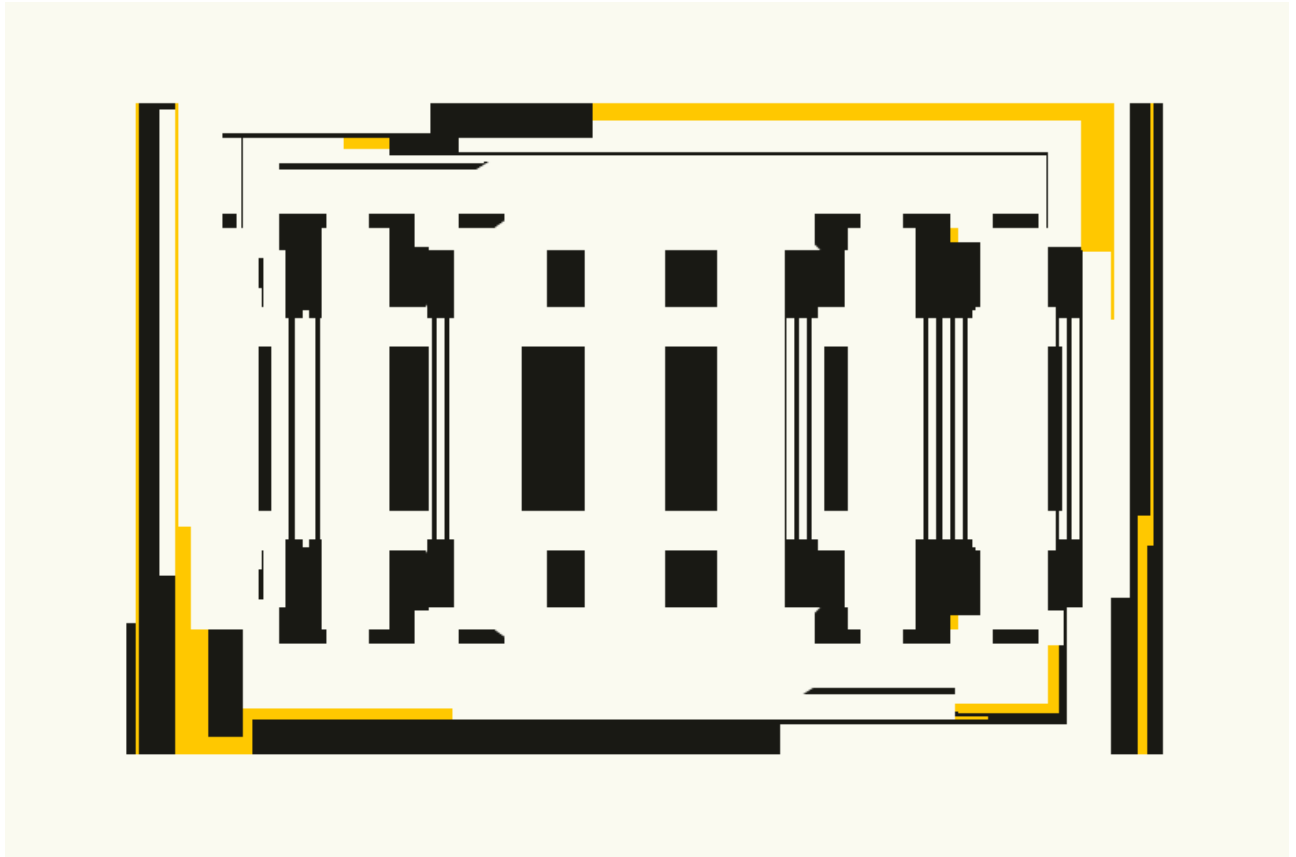
Create a piece of art about the library.

How do you evoke *that* house?

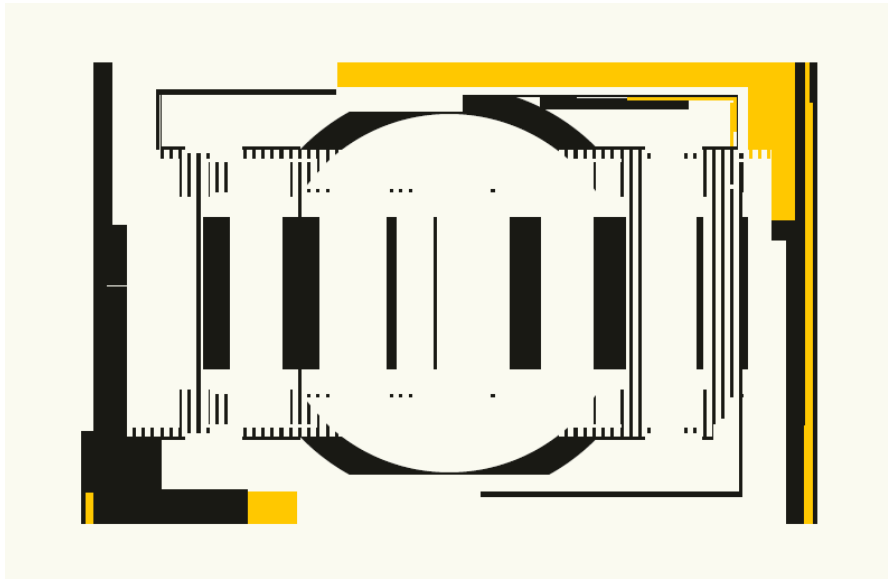
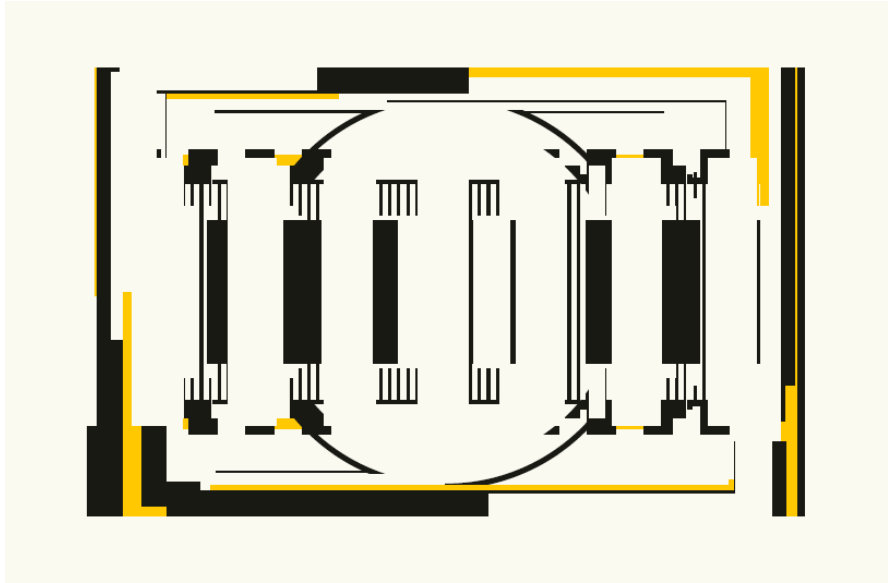
The lines, the sounds,
the breath of it?

Does this feel right?

m.david



mctavish



mctavish

Librarian

Residing in the library, for what feels like a lifetime, or might be a lifetime, the librarian is an actor, a familiar of the amorphous organism. The inside view. Definitely the inside view. No sanctum, this. A mundane buzz of constant need. A proof half done. An ocean of things to read.

The resident librarian collects questions, responding. How it makes sense. Describes it in a new way or in the same old way. Points to the button that opens the PDF. Explains the order of the books on the shelf. Accepts the limitations. And. Reflects the larger concepts. This is much bigger than what happens in the library.

The house and home of it all. An everyday place. Tracks of people visible just at the surface. The architecture of it, the poetry, the stories. Pools of thought. and feeling.

Create a piece of art about the library.

How do you explain *that* house?

The lines, the sounds,
the breath of it?

Does this feel right?

m.david

Citations I

playing an active role in the circulation of
information

bibliographic agency

first principles not fragile formats

demystify

decouple content from presentation

(the semantic web :::: describing a
relationship)

an MLA citation is just an encoding of an
address

like how USPS address format encodes a place
that could also be referred to by geocoordinates
or hyper-locally :: mine is that blue house

citation is messy

patterns & thinginess of noun but also verb ::
the passing of information from hand to hand ::
the thinginess of transmission of media :: of
wires that transmit

shelves are neighborhoods call number metrics
call number topologies

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Citations II

slow way down

create an intent

lay out the ingredients

information as a physical entity

creating a skeletal frame, a circulation

::: a structure of relation

& then using text to sew these things

together

to conjure

to breathe life into ::: to animate

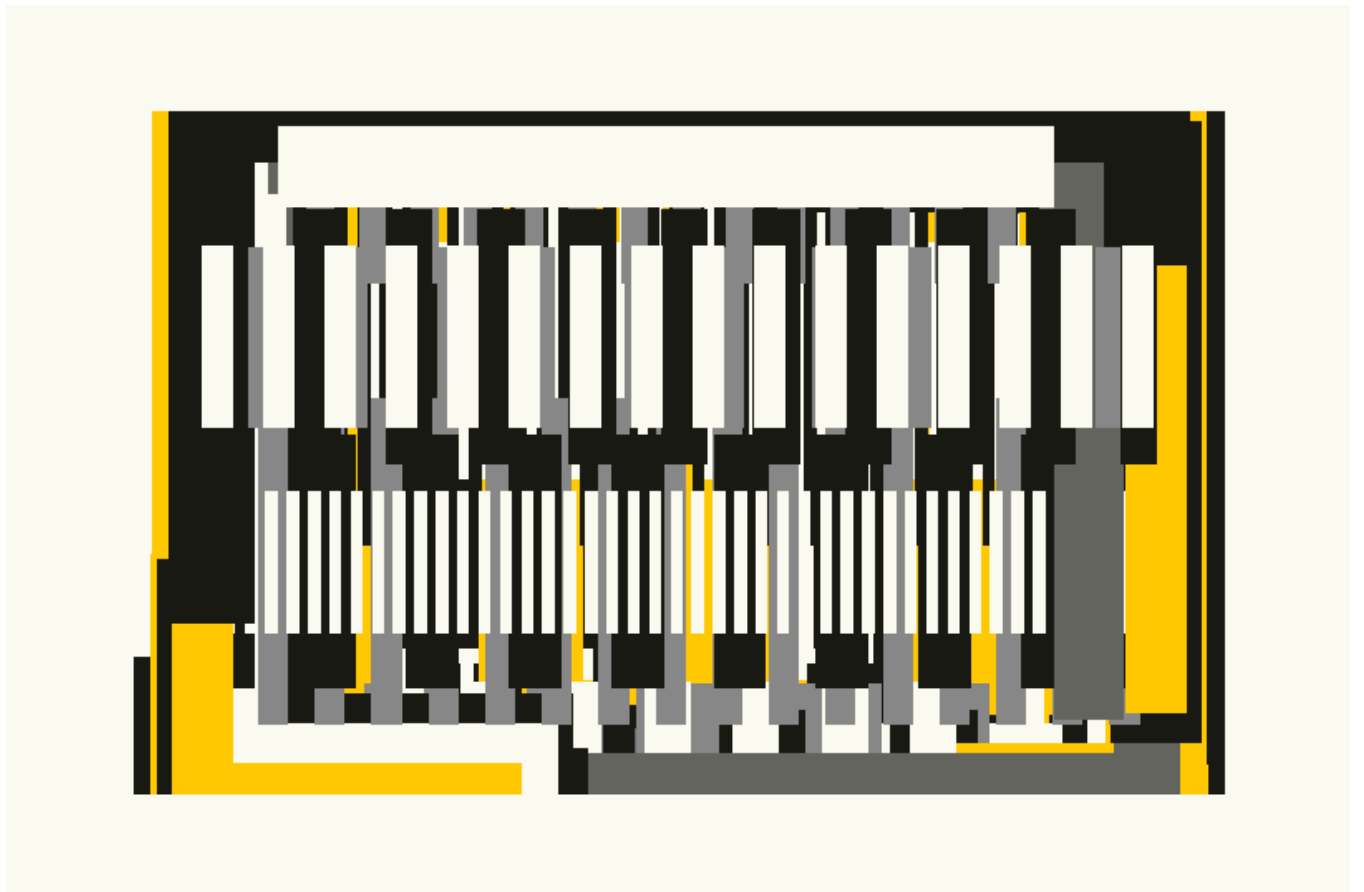
(list poems)

making sentences

collating words

making language

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citation :: a before | after
threshold
a summoning
preferred citation (like
preferred pronouns)
how do i want you to refer to me
:: my schema

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Kathryn A. Martin Library
University of MN Duluth

Library Homepage ::: lib.d.umn.edu

Reserve a Study Room ::: z.umn.edu/rooms

Research Help ::: z.umn.edu/askus

Research Guides ::: libguides.d.umn.edu

FAQ ::: z.umn.edu/library/faq

Start Your Research ::: z.umn.edu/startresearch

Artist in Residence ::: mctavish.work/library