

Preservation, Collaboration, and Visualization

How a Book Becomes an Experience

Supporting Documentation

Wisconsin Water Library

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Background Information

People of the Sturgeon: Wisconsin's Love Affair with an Ancient Fish is a tale of the cultural and scientific history of an iconic Wisconsin fish – the lake sturgeon. The book inspired a series of projects carried out by the Wisconsin Water Library and collaborators, each highlighting a different aspect of the story's importance. The three projects – oral history preservation, art exhibit collaboration, and Story Map visualization – reach distinct audiences and demonstrate the value of experiential learning in outreach and education.

Preservation of Oral Histories

Dutt-Doner, Allen, and Campanaro have shown that oral histories are a particularly strong tool for connecting learners to historical perspectives and knowledge through an empathetic lens (2016). Preserving the *People of the Sturgeon* oral histories in a secure institutional repository ensures that they will be permanently stored in a publicly accessible format for current and future generations.

Collaboration with the Arts

Studies have shown the benefits of place-based education and outreach. In particular, some researchers highlight the role museums and art galleries can play in offering critical engagement with a topic (Lane, Vanclay, Wills, & Lucas, 2007; Bell & Clover, 2017). The exhibit hosted by the Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, puts this research into action, returning the story to where it originated in a fresh, approachable format.

Visualization through Story Mapping

ESRI Story Maps allow for a unique visualization experience of place-based stories. Text, images, interactive maps, and audio converge to educate audiences about a topic with an emphasis on how a story plays out across space and time. Narratives and storytelling provide an effective method for sharing scientific information with non-expert audiences, and the story map goes beyond this to include experiential and exploratory learning as well (Dahlstrom, 2014).

References

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