Story Spaces:
Engagement Practices for the 21st Century Library

Joe Lambert, StoryCenter

Library Technology Conference
Macalester College, St Paul, MN
Wednesday, March 14, 2018
The Story Revolution Oral History, Participatory Media, Storywork

- Rooted in mid-20th century Documentary, Anthropology, Folklore Studies, and populist interview approaches
- Evolved into both an academic discipline, and a popular media strategy
- Informed by literacy, self-care/psychological, and social engagement strategies
- Made popular post-911 as a mechanism of broad social healing through StoryCorps, StoryCenter, and countless broadcast and social media platforms
- In Library and Museums – The Creation of MakerSpaces for Memory
Story and Engagement

- Why First Voice Matters
- Participatory Media and the Current Crisis
- Framing Storywork As Community Dialogue
- Multi-generational Engagement
- Creating Networks of Memory Work

From Nancy Takano, Desert Flower
Riverside Public Library, August 2016
California Listens

- Archive of quality digital stories for State Library
- Engage local libraries in StoryWork methods
- Provide training model for StoryWork activities
- Develop Listening Station and App

From Nancy Bower, Grandma’s Dresses
Butte County Library, September, 2016
California Listens
2016-17

- Mendocino County
- Sonoma County
- Butte County
- Mill Valley
- Oakland
- Berkeley
- San Francisco
- Hayward
- San Jose
- Redwood City
- Palo Alto
- Monterey County
- Fresno
- Santa Barbara
- Ventura
- Santa Monica
- Palos Verdes
- Inglewood
- Anaheim
- Riverside
- Whittier
- Huntington Beach
- Long Beach
- San Diego
California Listens
2018

- Amador County
- Yolo County
- Napa County
- Sacramento
- Stockton
- Pleasanton
- Sunnyvale
- Menlo Park
- Los Gatos
- Monterey
- Salinas
- San Luis Obispo
- Moorpark
- Burbank
- South Pasadena
- Sierra Madre
- LAPL- Downtown
- LAPL- Edendale
- Orange County
- Redondo Beach
- Oceanside
- San Diego County
- Chula Vista
StoryCenter is a Berkeley-based international non-profit working in digital storytelling and storywork. In the 1990s they developed the Digital Storytelling Workshop as a participatory media methodology.

archive.org/details/storycenter
The Giver by Jenera Burton
No Me Rindo (I Don’t Give Up) by Lucy Ruvalcava
Lessons Learned

- Intensive multi-day workshops are a challenge
- IT Infrastructure is not ready for primetime
- Community screenings are enormously effective
- Inspiration creates capacity
Overview to the Listening Station

The Problem

Implementation of digital media oral history projects has required minimum skill sets in:
- interview technique
- media production
- data management
- and archival systems

A project that seems straightforward, the collection of 10 narratives, involves:
- weeks of planning
- focused use of skilled staff
- weeks of follow-up

Many libraries, museums, and community organizations lack the capacities. Many projects are started, but never completed.
What if you could make a platform that addressed these as a design problem, and created a tool specifically oriented to small oral history efforts?
Spectrums of Concern In Story Work Process

Time
- Ease of Use
- Easy Access for Participants
- Rapid Integration into Programming
- Standardization

Impact
- Customization
- Distribution/Exhibit Quality
- Ethical and Archival Consistency
- Production Quality
The Listening Station Kit
Focus of Implementation

- Designed for simplicity, low-cost, and portability
- Uses iPad owing to vast familiarity of iOS platform/apps
- Readily adaptable for camera angle, sound, and lighting
- A story capture tool and distribution system
- Primarily designed for assisted media projects
- Can be used as “do-it-yourself” conversation booth
- Simplifies media distribution, storage and archiving
The Listening Station App
Beta Release, August 2016

- Admin Control Over iPad Use for CIPA compliance
- Simplified file management using Amazon storage
- Limit of Recording time in Audio and Video
- Theme-based example stories and prompts
- Review of Recordings
- Automated user notification for downloading media
The Listening Station Plus App
Release June 2017
Updates August, September, November, March 2018

• Registration, MetaData and Release Form
• Ivideo Marking
• Multiple Recordings on Single Login
• Direct Download
• Send to Dropbox, Drive, and Social Media
• Automatic Transcription options (Pop-up Archive closes, other options being considered)
The Listening Station Plus App
Planned Enhancements 2018

- Custom Themes and Stories
- Adjustable Record Duration
- Custom Registration
- Web-based Content Management
- WeVideo Editing Integration
- Improved Transcription options
Listening Station Admin Panel (April 2018)

### Users

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12 Themes Must Be Selected
Cuentos
Antia Perez Ferguson
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeEZCDkW3fM
Charles Austin
Resident, Berkeley

Madelon Yamamoto
Resident, Palos Verdes

CaliforniaListens.org Listening Station Excerpts
http://californialistens.org/category/listening-station-2017/
Thank You
Joe Lambert
joe@storycenter.org
storycenter.org