

Webbing Cyberfeminist Practices Research Cluster

2008-09 Annual Report

The 2008-09 Cluster has been developing the third year of the Digital Mirror Computer Camp, a four-day residential experience for girls in grades 6-8. This year's camp will run August 5-8, and given our intensive spring-summer workload, face-to-face cluster meetings began in November 2008.

Members

Faculty and Staff:

- Kris Blair, Rhetoric and Writing, Cluster Director
- Julie Barnes, Computer Science
- Dena Eber, School of Art
- Kim Fleshman, Student Technology Center
- Rachel Biel, Education Coordinator, Toledo Museum of Art

Graduate Students (all English):

- Suzan Aiken
- Emily Beard
- Brittany Cottrill
- Erin Dietel-McLaughlin
- Christine Garbett
- Meredith Graupner
- Krista Petrosino
- Ruijie Zhao

National Conference Presentations related to the Camp, 2008-09

- Rhetoric Society of America, May 2008
- National Council of Teachers of English, November 2008
- Computers and Writing Conference, June 2009
- Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference, October 2009 (proposal under review)

Grants

In May 2008, four cluster members received a \$10,000 grant from the American Association of University Women, which will allow the group to continue the camp through Summer 2010.

Publications

Three cluster members have had a chapter abstract accepted for the forthcoming collection, *Girl Wide Web 2.0: Revisiting Girls, the Internet, and the Negotiation of Identity*, edited by nationally recognized girls studies scholar Sharon Mazzarella. Our chapter is due July 15.

The cluster director has written a chapter on feminist methodology and community outreach—using the camp as a case study—for a proposed collection on research methods titled “Pragmatics and Possibilities,” to be submitted to Southern Illinois University Press in Fall 2009.

Camp Deliverables

The camp is designed to put cyberfeminist theory into practice by creating and sustaining adolescent girls’ interest in and aptitude for technology in their academic and social lives. This is consistent with research by the American Association of University Women showing that girls often lose interest in technology around the middle school years. To enhance sustainability, we divided the camp into two tracks in 2008: one for new girls, and one for returning girls, a curriculum modification designed to help both sets of participants understand the ways technology impacts both personal and professional development. Equally important, we have worked to ensure that we recruit girls from more diverse backgrounds as camp participants and have had participants from both Toledo and Cleveland. The links to the 2008 participant work below provide an example of the extent to which the camp is addressing its theoretical and pedagogical outcomes:

Track II Digital Mirror Site:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/digimir08/USB20FD/>

Track I Portfolios:

Ameenah C:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/digimir08/A/>

Autumn M:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/digimir08/Autumn/>

Candice C:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/digimir08/Candice/>

Doneisha K:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/digimir08/Donita/>

Emily K:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/digimir08/emm./>

Erin K:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/digimir08/erina/Erin/>

Kellie D:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/digimir08/Kellie/>

Leslie S:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/digimir08/Leslie/>

McKayla P:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/digimir08/kayla/>

Meghan B:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/digimir08/meghannn/>

Olivia M:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/digimir08/OLIVIA/>

Olivia K:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/digimir08/olivia/>

Sarah S:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/digimir08/dm/>

Budget

Approximate 2009 Expenditures:

Lodging:	\$3000
Meals:	\$1700
Transportation:	\$ 350
T-shirts:	\$ 300
Art Museum:	\$ 250
Mailings/Materials:	\$ 100
Total:	\$5700

2009 Cost-Shares:

Grant funds 2009: cover 2008 expenses)	\$4000 (note \$1000 from last years Grant stipend was used to
Participant Fee (\$25 x 25):	\$650
T-shirt donation AAUW:	\$300
ICS Cluster Funds:	\$750
Supply Donations:	
	University Bookstore
	Staples (pending)
	Verizon (pending)
Total:	\$5700

The Webbing Cyberfeminist Practices cluster is grateful for the continuing support of the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society.