COMMUNITY INFORMATICS STUDIO: A MODEL OF INFORMATION SCHOLARSHIP IN ACTION

INTRODUCTION

What is Community Informatics?

Community informatics is focused on “using technology to support community development goals” (Steinacker, 2005) and is also “a sustainable approach to community enrichment that integrates participatory design of information technology resources, popular education, and student-based development to enhance citizen empowerment and quality of life” (Campbell & Ebubakar, 2004).


“Elements of the studio based approach include the design problem/project, periodic lectures, desk critiques, collaborative team working together within a studio space. Studio-based learning (SBL) is rooted in the apprentice model of learning in which students study with master designers or artists to learn their craft. The pedagogy emphasizes learning by doing and could be described as an approach thatviews learning to be a professional as opposed to learning the knowledge needed to be a professional.”

Field visits: Exposes students to various professional frameworks as members of an interdisciplinary collaborative team working together within a studio space.

Individual critique: Uses real-world projects and studio-based learning/apprenticeship pedagogy to provide students with the opportunity to develop the skills necessary for being professionals in their field of study.

Paulo Freire

“Because it is a distortion of being fully human, sooner or later being less than human leads the oppressed to struggle against those who made them so. In order for this struggle to be successful and transform the axial social relations of oppression, the oppressed must not just seek to regain their humanity (which is a way to create it), but become in turn oppressors of the oppressors, but rather newautors of the humanity of both.”


COMMUNITY INFORMATICS STUDIO WORKSHOPS

Preserving Local History-One Voice at a Time: A Popular Technology Workshop for Teens (Jennie Archer)

This workshop aims to raise teenagers’ awareness of their positions within their communities and to remind them that their voices and experiences matter.

Uncovering Art in CJU: Forming partnerships to share and promote artwork and address issues of concern to artists in Champaign-Urbana (Ryne Leuzinger)

This workshop seeks to bring together members of a local arts community to engage in a discussion related to forming new partnerships and addressing common obstacles.

Queruing the C-U Wiki (Lucas McKeever)

Due to the nature of wikis, the goal of “Queruing the C-U Wiki” was to equip LGBT members of the community with the skills to ensure their past and present do not go undocumented.

Community Informatics Studio Class, Fall 2012

LEARN MORE

To learn more about the community informatics studio model and our workshops, please scan the QR code or visit www.communityinformatics.org/clinics/