

This is a transcript of the video clip "Learning from the DALN" from the interview with Dr. Cynthia Selfe in Samuel Head, "A Scholarly Legacy: Professor Cynthia Selfe and the Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives" published in *Kairos: Rhetoric, Technology, Pedagogy*, 22(1), available at <http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/22.1/interviews/head>.

Sam:

I would like to ask you if you could tell a story about an experience where you've learned something about literacy from creating this archive.

Dr. Selfe:

There is not a day that goes by that I don't learn something from looking at the narratives in the DALN. Literacy is so varied in all its human manifestations: people learn how to read from cereal boxes, and by reading the Bible, one by bedtime stories, and by going to school, and by attending Sunday school, by reading in church, you know, by reading instructions. They read in their homes, they read in hardware stores, they read under work benches in the garage, they read in libraries, they read on playgrounds, in trees, you know, in forts, they read everywhere. And they're taught by mothers, and fathers, and brothers, and sisters, and they're taught by peers, they are taught by Sunday School teachers. They read to dogs, and people, and classes. There's so much variation in the practice and the valuing of literate experiences, that you can't help but learn something new every time you listen to one of those stories.

And so it's the variation on literacy that most intrigues me. How the activity of signing shapes your literate expressions, values, understandings, ASL signing. Or how the experience of reading music shapes your understanding of what it means to communicate. Or how the experiences and the values surrounding alphabetic reading or multimodal reading and composing shapes what you think of his communication... shapes what you think of as composing or reading. All that remains fascinating to me because of its variability.