Title
Tell Us How UC It: Social Impact through Digital Initiative Projects

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Tell Us How UC It:
Social Impact through Digital Initiative Projects
Cristela Garcia - Spitz
UC San Diego Library
Living Archive Idea:

Core Working Group (left to right):

- Cristela Garcia-Spitz - Digital Initiatives Librarian / Archives & Digital Infrastructure Advisor
- Gayatri Singh - Reference & Information Services Coordinator / Liaison Advisor & Coordinator
- Tamara Rhodes - Social Sciences Liaison / Project Manager & Designer
- Rachel Myers - Library Assistant / Researcher & Copyeditor
Tell Us How UC It: A Living Archive

“In early February 2016, members of a UC San Diego fraternity held an off-campus party mocking Black History Month. Later that same month at UC San Diego, a noose was discovered in the Geisel Library at the university.”

– Campus Climate Project Final Report, March 2014

Most recently, on April 2016, “pro-Trump and anti-Mexican graffiti was seen chalked across Library Walk, campus residential areas and outside the Raza Resource Centro.”

– Triton News, April 9, 2016

These reoccurring events affect ALL students, underrepresented or not, and demonstrate the need for a conversation about student experiences related to the campus climate at UC San Diego.

The UC San Diego Library is creating a “living archive” as an alternative way to highlight awareness, provide a space for dialogue, preserve and document the events related to UC San Diego history.

A living archive is a collection of materials presented in a way that allows for the expression, exhibition, documentation, and preservation of a sentiment or movement in a particular community. This type of “archiving” is living because it is constantly updated with the current climate and consists of all manner of materials that reflect the experiences and emotions of the students and the community.
Photos by Kirk Wang 2017

Historical Narrative

Current Reflections: Student Perspectives

Real-time Feedback
"They"
By Cleo Nettles

They try to place me in a box.
They try to tell me their thoughts
They try to get me to see it their way
They try to tell me what to say
They try to make me less than.
But not by words, but by
Passive aggressive acts, man.
They scream Trump this, Trump that
Trying to go back to wearing KKK hats
They don’t want brown
They don’t want black
They don’t want anything that’s not...
Never mind, scratch that.
They remind me that I am not like them.
They write it is a task if it actually care about them.
Black, Brown, Yellow, Green
No matter what you say your words don’t have meaning
You can try to be passive
You can try to make me quit
But we ARE the majority
And ya’ll ain’t a**
How do we provide context?

Omeka

Project STAND (STudent Activism Now Documented)

UC San Diego Library Digital Collections

Calisphere

Digital Public Library of America
Lessons Learned

- Tie-in to national trends and campus initiatives to get support.
- Collaboration is essential. Look beyond the library’s door & be open to surprises.
- Think about how your language may influence the way participants respond.
- Be prepared for a range of feedback.
- Explore accessible digital platforms that will accommodate the content. Be flexible & open to changing platforms.
Thank you.

Cristela Garcia -Spitz
cgarciaspitz@ucsd.edu

http://lib.ucsd.edu/tellushowucit
https://standarchives.com/

In Practice

Project Timeline

- May - Aug 2016: Physical Exhibit Planning
- Sept - Dec 2016: Online Collection Planning
- Sept - Dec 2016: Call for submissions
- Mid Nov 2016 - Jan 2017: Submission Review
- December 2016: Online Collection re-planning
- February 1, 2017: Launch physical exhibit & online collection
- December 2016: "From Crisis to Change: The Student Experience & Activism on Campus" panel
A living archive is a collection of materials presented in a way that allows for the expression, exhibition, documentation, and preservation of a sentiment or movement in a particular “archiving” is living because it is constantly updated with the current climate of expression from documents of the past to creative expression through art to the current period.

We will feature a physical exhibit from February 1 – March 31, 2017 and a portion of the online collection.

We would like to feature YOU. So, what do you have to say or express about your experience at UC San Diego?

Submit your creative work and join the conversation—
- Submission Form
- Licensing Form (download and attach it to Submission Form)

Deadline: December 9, 2016

Eligibility: Must be enrolled as a current student at UC San Diego

Accepted Media: Paintings, drawings, collages, prints, sculptures, photographs, performance art, written work, video or film

Original Work/Copyright: You must be the creator of the art you submit for this archive. Submissions must be original, respect privacy, have necessary permissions for any copyrighted materials, and abide by UC San Diego’s Principles of Community.

Please review the following links for further information.

Copyright Fair Use Creative Commons Plagiarism Principles of Community

Submission Criteria:

Please remember that the purpose of this exhibit is to facilitate a conversation, highlight awareness, and provide a space for dialogue. Please ensure that your submissions uphold this intent, honor UC San Diego’s Principles of Community, and are free of bias and hate.

About the physical exhibit:

Due to space constraints, a limited selection of the submissions will appear in the physical exhibit. All submissions meeting the guidelines above will appear in the online collection, including images of the selected pieces.

Multiple Entries: Please limit 2 entries per student
Tell Us How UC It: A Living Archive
Submission form

Click here for project and submission details

Name *

First Name

Last Name

UC San Diego Student ID Number *

Example: a12345678

Classification *

freshman, sophomore, etc.

Preferred Email Address *


Submission Details

Title of Submission *

Medium *

Dimensions (if applicable)

Duration (if applicable)

Brief bio (maximum 50 words) *

Description/motivation of the artwork (maximum 100 words) *
Upload your submission *

Choose File  No file chosen
(If you would like to submit a physical work, please upload photographs or video of that work)

Upload your licensing form *

Choose File  No file chosen
(To be considered, you must download, sign, and upload the licensing form below)

Download licensing form here

(Must download PDF to sign.)

Check this box if you would NOT like your work to be displayed publicly (in exhibit or online collection) with your name

I DO NOT want my name attached to my creative work in the exhibit nor in the online collection

We reserve the right to edit descriptive content for clarity and formatting.

Copyright
Fair Use
Creative Commons
Plagiarism
Principles of Community

If you have any questions, contact Tamara Rhodes at tirhodes@ucsd.edu.
LICENSE AGREEMENT

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Tell Us How UC It Call for Submissions
April 5, 2019

"The campus established a diversity requirement for graduation. A knowledge of diversity, equity and inclusion is required of all candidates who begin their studies at UC San Diego in lower-division standing in fall 2011, or in upper-division standing in fall 2013.

This Week @ UC San Diego, October 10, 2011

"At our university, we recognize that true excellence is achieved when we feel respected for our perspectives, backgrounds and heritage. We should all feel included in campus life and experience equitable opportunity in achieving our aspirations.

Inclusive Excellence @ UC San Diego: 2018 Update

These requirements have been in place for several years now, so Tell us how UC it!
These requirements have been in place for several years now, so **Tell us how UC it!**

How do you experience equity, diversity, and inclusion on the UC San Diego campus?

**Are you a PART or APART?**

*We will highlight a physical exhibit in Geisel Library from May 20 – June 28, 2019.*

*We would like to feature YOU.*

**Submit your creative work and join the conversation**

[Submission Form](#)

Submission Details

**Deadline:** May 3, 2019  
**Eligibility:** Must be enrolled as a current student at UC San Diego  
**Accepted Media:** Paintings, drawings, collages, prints, sculptures, photographs, performance art, written work, video or film  
**Original Work/Copyright:** You must be the creator of every element of the art you submit for this archive. Submissions must be original, respect privacy, have the necessary permissions for any copyrighted materials, and abide by UC San Diego's [Principles of Community](#).  
**Multiple Entries:** Please limit 2 entries per student

Submission Criteria:

Please remember that the purpose of this exhibit is to facilitate a conversation, highlight awareness, and provide a space for dialogue. Please ensure that your submissions uphold this intent, honor UC San Diego's [Principles of Community](#), and are free of bias and hate.

**About the physical exhibit:**

Due to space constraints, a limited selection of the submissions will appear in the physical exhibit. All submissions meeting the guidelines above will appear in the online collection, including images of the artwork or video. All artwork will be returned at the conclusion of the exhibit period.

**Available Resources:**

The UC San Diego Library has a number of resources available to assist you with your submissions, should you need it:

[Digital Media Lab](#) | [Tech Lending Program](#) | [UCSD History](#) | [Digital Collections](#) | [Previous Tell Us How UC it Submissions](#)
To foster and contextualize conversations regarding incidents targeting specific underrepresented groups on our campus, the UC San Diego Library created a living archive. It is an alternative way to highlight awareness, provide a space for dialogue, preserve and document the events related to student activism at UC San Diego.

The living archive began with the Tell Us How UC it project.

You can begin by viewing OUR STORY above, which has a description of the project, or view each section individually below.

A HISTORY

Present events and incidents from UC San Diego’s history (and in some cases, history in general) that affected the campus climate for students in such a way that they were compelled to act or react.

VIEW TIMELINE

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

Creative works by students, during the time of the project, that offer an in-the-moment expression of community sentiments and experiences.

VIEW CREATIVE WORK

EXHIBIT FEEDBACK

In-the-moment feedback about the exhibit or movement as a whole, who might be presenting real-time responses to the past to converge with vital expressions of current sentiment.

VIEW FEEDBACK

THE PHYSICAL EXHIBIT

Images of the original temporary exhibit, video of the panel event of former student activists who still work on campus, and materials from the subsequent workshop. From Crisis to Change: How to Organize for Action.

VIEW THE EXHIBIT
As questions, conversations, and debates surrounding social justice come to the surface on college campuses around the country, what role do libraries play? This presentation will discuss a project called “Tell Us How UC It: A Living Archive”. At the heart of the project was the belief that in our capacity as providers of information, libraries can present a narrative in the hopes of informing their community, starting conversations, and inspiring student action.

Intro: Digital Initiatives Librarian & one of the members of the Tell Us How UC It project.

Image credits:
- Students walk out of the UCSD administration's teach-in on February 24, 2010. A majority of the students in attendance left the official teach-in, and gathered together outside of Price Center to have their own teach-in. (Photo by: Jessica Plautz) [https://www.kpbs.org/news/2010/feb/24/ucsd-minority-students-walk-out-teach/](https://www.kpbs.org/news/2010/feb/24/ucsd-minority-students-walk-out-teach/)
Context: In April 2016, right in the middle of the presidential campaign, like many other campuses, a number of Trump Chalkings appeared on the UCSD campus in multiple places, one of them near Raza Resource Centro, our Chicanx- Latinx campus community center. As a response, the Black Graduate Student Association and the Graduate Student Association co-hosted a Race Relations Town Hall, which got us thinking about how we, in the Library, can support our community in this moment.

It was not the first time the campus was hit with racial incidents. In 2010, there were escalating racist incidents surrounding a fraternity party designated the Compton Cookout, which made national news and prompted a federal investigation.

Represented “Forgotten history” - nature of college campus within a few years memory for students fades

One of our team members, Tamara Rhodes had previously published an article discussing how libraries can use “living archives” to support social movements in their communities. A “living archive” collects and presents materials in a way that allows for the expression, exhibition, documentation, and preservation of a sentiment or movement in a particular community.

Images:
http://triton.news/2017/02/compton-cookout-day-party-remembered-not/
https://www.facebook.com/events/509510175906322/
The development of the living archive required the expertise of and collaboration between multiple people and departments in the library and campus community.

Team: diverse backgrounds in different areas of the library, multi-generational, different skills and perspectives

[Name, Job Title, Project Role]

Other collaborators: Liaison to campus community centers • Rights Analyst • Special Collections & Archives • Library IT Services • Campus activists & other community members
Initial call for submissions in 2016 on Library’s blog, and used jotform/dropbox for submissions

“Pilot project” really experiment and “jumping in!”
Locally developed DAMS and Digital Collections website with formal project proposal process; this project doesn’t fit into this model; couldn’t even fill out the forms because didn’t know types of submission, number of submissions, etc.
Had to plan and think more about how to carry out the project

Set the parameters – highlighted two specific events, and careful about the wording, defined living archive, and highlighted that we were looking for submissions from ALL students. We were hoping to get a range of students perspectives, not just from minority groups, fringe communities, or extremes

When doing these types of projects, need to think about framing, e.g. “student experiences related to campus climate” not racial incidents on campus, so not to already framing type of response

We did have some requirements – we wanted to focus on current students, original works, and abide by the University’s Principles of Community which states principles and values on dignity and diversity, and rejects discrimination.

Pointed to library’s resources on copyright (reinforce information available and taught
in the library)

Highlight again “free of bias and hate” looking for constructive dialogue but still mindful that would be in the library, which we emphasis as a place that is welcomed to all.

Finally, we wanted to again point to library resources – Digital media, tech lending program, and digital collections has all the student newspapers digitized, and other collections that we digitized for the university’s 50th anniversary.

Jotform - students filled out form, which became object’s metadata (title, date, description, bio, etc.); upload pdf or image of the creative work

Partnered with faculty/lecturers & We received over 200 submissions.

2016-2017: While a few submissions were gathered through general marketing, a majority came from collaborations with two courses:

- VIS 105A: Drawing
- Culture, Art, and Technology (CAT) 1: Migration Narratives in the Sixth College writing program

The faculty members, Katie Herzog and Amanda Solomon, integrated submitting to the archive into their courses final assignments. For CAT 1: Migration Narratives, in addition to thinking about how they view the current campus climate, they also responded to the fourth chapter of Angela Kong’s dissertation, "Re-examining Diversity Policy at University of California, San Diego: The Racial Politics of Asian Americans".

Image: blog post marketing
https://libraries.ucsd.edu/blogs/blog/howucit/
Exhibit Feb-Mar 2017 in the Library with selection of the submissions

- The purpose of this project is to provide the narrative of UC San Diego’s history of student activism to foster and contextualize a conversation about the ways students experience UC San Diego’s campus climate. The living archive format can be used to support, document, and engage social movements in any community by presenting an historical narrative, featuring community perspectives through all manner of creative work, and including in-the-moment feedback to the theme, event, or topic.
- A way for libraries to bridge formats to where all is collected and presented together to establish a particular narrative.
- Perfect for UCSD’s climate: forgotten history, live current sentiment due to ongoing present events that related to the forgotten history
- Timeline by decade: highlight major events regarding student activism throughout UCSD’s history; focus not just on moments of conflict but also progress (creation of cultural centers, Principles of Community); used direct quotes from Student Newspapers
- Collaborations/Conversations:
  - Spring 2017 with the CAT 3 course, The Art of the Protest
  - Workshop with the UC Student Association for the Teaching + Learning Commons’ Supporting Leadership in Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship (SLICE)
  - DOC writing program in Thurgood Marshall College (TBD)
- In the process, there has been some new partners that may want to be
involved (additional colleges, housing & dining)
  o A panel of former student activists, who now work on campus, accompanied the opening of the exhibit.
  o Responding to concerns expressed by students who attended the panel discussion, the project partnered with the Organizing Director of the University of California Student Association to host a workshop entitled “From Crisis to Change: How to Organize for Action”
  o More classes have integrated the Living Archive exhibit into their assignments.
  o The timeline was included in Resident Advisor training for one of the colleges.
  o The timeline was used in the Anthropology Department’s Teaching Assistant training to prepare them to teach Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion courses.
  • The timeline banners have been reproduced using sturdier materials to be displayed in community centers and residence halls throughout the campus.
  o The Triton, a student newspaper, reviewed the exhibit.
  o Since February 2017, the online archive has received over 7,900 individual page views.
  o Tell Us How UC It was mentioned in American Libraries, and in an article in the Journal of American Ethnic History
Student voice have limited representation in our University Archives; exists in student newspapers but limited in structure/format (just quotes)

Cultural change for the Library
Not a typical role for our Library to seek out submissions, gather student work, and engage at that level, so we had to be thoughtful about providing updates and sharing the vision.

We presented the concept but did not have enough information to go through the digital project proposal process. We didn't know how many or what type of submissions we might receive. Made it challenging but also pushed us to work together across library programs with various expertise and technical skills.

The UC San Diego Library presented the project as a physical exhibit with accompanying events - workshops and classes, and an online collection using Omeka, a free and open-source platform.

1. Submission process (Digital, some items physical)
   a. Jotform- submits to dropbox
   b. License agreements
   c. Marketing - where solicited submissions
      i. Community centers (newsletters and paper flyers)
      ii. Residence halls for all 6 colleges; transfer residence hall
iii. Library homepage and physical signs
iv. Student Organizations
   a. Class collaboration
      1. Omeka site - export from JotForms/Dropbox > Excel spreadsheet > Omeka

Images:

Submissions vary from the very passionate to the i-don't-care. Majority of pieces will stand on their own, but for some context will be important.

Tried to present thoughtfully and mindful of greater context. However hard to do with some objects, Ex: “Interpretation of ethnic unity” - chart

How does this translate online? creating the content rather than waiting for content to come to us we have a role and position with resources and know-how to do this had to be thoughtful in presentation didn't have the right platform, but had the drive;

Omeka easy to stand-up, hard to maintain Omeka met with most of our requirements: landing pages, visual, commenting, Omeka has not been ideal (issues with navigation, searching, everything takes a plugin and plugins aren’t well-maintained)

Google analytics - users are going to site, and not going deeper > fix home page but need programmer to do more, navigation, search, etc.

Using Exhibit features to provide a lot of context in Omeka Will need to consider what needs to travel with the object as it gets aggregated, e.g. tagged which submission came from a class assignment, so might need to add a note
with more information about the course description for those objects.

Established in fall 2016, Project STAND (STudent Activism Now Documented) is a nationwide consortium of more than 40 colleges and universities that is creating an online hub to heighten access to digital and analog archival and historical collections documenting student activism. Recently received IMLS grant to fund 4 symposiums across the country - one was recently held in Atlanta, upcoming in Rhode Island, next Chicago, and finally Arizona State University.
Lessons Learned

- Tie-in to national trends and campus initiatives to get support.
- Collaboration is essential. Look beyond the library’s door & be open to surprises.
- Think about how your language may influence the way participants respond.
- Be prepared for a range of feedback.
- Explore accessible digital platforms that will accommodate the content. Be flexible & open to changing platforms.

- Library’s digital projects usually have a supportive role, however in this case we took the lead, chose the partnership & designed the project
- Perhaps because of self-reflexive characteristic of creating a project around own campus history and social movement, this has been digital project with most campus engagement that I have worked on in my 10 years at UCSD
- Digitized student newspapers about 10 years ago; timeline demonstrates way to use digital collections
- Formed partnerships in the classroom and in the community
- Ties in with what is happening nationally
- Digital tools that assist in the process, but not 1 tool to do it all; find the right tool for the task; takes many tools & many hands
Thank you.

Cristela Garcia-Spitz
cgarciaspitz@ucsd.edu

http://lib.ucsd.edu/tellushowucit
https://standarchives.com/


- All the artwork featured in the presentation is from the 2017 exhibit.
- The quality of the creative work by the students and the community engagement made it worthwhile project and has inspired us to do more.
- Importance of community engagement, but also time and resources required, not able to do it every year
- Second installation this May 2019
- Still like to work with specific groups; possibly do oral histories
- Physical exhibit and online collection complemented each other - a way to experience in different formats
- Marketed at physical exhibit with bookmarks that included the site and quotations from ‘further reading’ list
- At physical exhibit, had a citation guide that was twice stolen. Positive because people want to read/know more
- Had an opening panel that complemented the exhibit and online collection - former students and faculty that were currently or had been involved in student activism on campus
- How project started and how it all came together based on how history and panel came about - evolution over short amount of time - antithesis of academic environment

**Group Roles** (5 committee members)
1. Project Manager/Coordinator; Fresh, “Let’s do it” attitude
2. Knowledge of administration
3. Knowledge of technical
4. Campus and community connections
5. Energy, institutional knowledge, detail-oriented/copy editor

**Collaborations within library**
- Academic Liaison Program
- Learning Spaces Program
- Digital Library Development Program
- IT Services
- Special Collections & Archives
- Communications & Engagement

Collaborations on campus
- Campus faculty or staff
- Visual Arts course
- Culture, Art, & Technology undergraduate writing program course

Additional Activities
Tour of the exhibit with Resident Life

T+LC Training on How to Organize for action
2017 Submission form details
Asked for student id and classification to verify current students (but did not use it for anything else)
Preferred email is helpful if there are any missing items in the submission process (missing file or license agreement)
All of this information was useful for both the physical and online exhibit (physical > artwork captions, online > object metadata)

For the jotform, consideration has to be made for amount of entries allowed, space, number and size of attachments
Also gave unique id numbers to each submission

Bios were not always bios – so if do again, provide more instruction
Made anonymous so that they can be expressive. Then had to account for time it would take to remove names, and make sure content was anonymous (e.g. drawing with signature, essays with details about themselves).
License agreement – also needed more instruction.

There were about 50 out of the 261 submissions that we did have to exclude from public view because we did not receive the license agreement after a few attempts and reminders (only heard back and received around 10 of the 50).

There were about 10 that were missing content. We were able to reach out and retrieve some of those.

Missing items are added time to account for.
Spreadsheet > omeka csv import, dropbox plugins > object view
2019 Call for submissions on Library’s blog
2019 Call for submissions on Library’s blog
Blog post is featured on the library’s home page and shared through social media.
Revamping the website by migrating from Omeka to Knit (Digital Commons in a Box, wordpress based tool); digital objects will be ingested into the Library’s digital collections website.