Artists Books in the Digital Age:

Uniting Student, Faculty, Community, and Consortial Collaborators through Grant Money

In the fall of 2012, Hampshire College applied for a Mellon digital humanities grant through Five Colleges Inc. I wrote the section of the grant on Artists Books in the Digital Age, and when we were unsuccessful in our request, ended up being the Project Manager. Tips below:

- Involve collaborators from as many different realms as you can. Because the terms of this grant required that we bring faculty and staff together from at least several of the Five Colleges, we were able to reach out to librarians and faculty from other campuses. We then also reached out to book artists in the community and five-college students.

- Think timing. We purposefully timed our event to coincide with the Hampshire College Board of Trustees weekend. We knew that this would bring new attention to our project. In the end, it also resulted in the Hampshire College Board of Trustees’ offer to sponsor the reception after our keynote talk.

- Be creative. We offered student help for the design of our event poster and web site. Since the grant provided very limited funding, we collaborated with the Hampshire College Gallery, which in turn helped defray the costs of shipping works for the exhibit. We used QR codes for some works and printed them on large-scale posters. One of our studio arts faculty members offered to host our Workshop Facilitator so that we did not have to pay for another night in a hotel.

What we did with $500:

NonVisible and Intangible was a gallery exhibition and series of events held at the Harold F. Johnson Library in November 2013. The events explored how technology has affected all aspects of artists books – from production to creation to access and use. Some of the works on display explored interactive generative art with text and image, some functioned as books in their own right but were enhanced with technology, and others required a smartphone or tablet to view them at all.

November 7th – 16th
"Pop-Up Plywood" exhibition in the Main Gallery
Curated by Andrea Boston, Steven Balmer, and Meredith Binberg
Gallery Hours: M-T 12-6 F 12-3 Sa-Su 2-5

Thursday Nov 7th
4 p.m. Keynote Speaker Gertrude Henderson in the Library
Keynote: "This is Not a Book: Merging Art and Science"
Followed by a reception for the "Pop-Up Plywood" exhibition

Friday Nov 8th
12:30 p.m. Pizza lunch for workshop participants (limited space, email cecilia@hampton.edu)
1.5 p.m. "Pop-Up Paper Electronics" workshop led by Collette Fu (limited space, email cecilia@hampton.edu)
3 p.m. Presentation of digital and web-based artists books in Main Gallery
Followed by informal closing reception

http://nonvisible.wordpress.com

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