

Using Photovoice to Explore Native American Students' Perceptions of the Physical Library



Neurohr & Bailey, 2014, ARL Assessment Conference



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Photovoice



photo by Ari, 3/29/07
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Research Questions

- How do Native American students who are persisting perceive the academic research library and its role in his or her life?
- Through respondents' photovoice about the library, which elements of the library do students depict and describe as holding meaning for them?

Criteria and Compensation

- **Student Criteria**

- self-identified as Native American
- completed at least 3 semesters
- use the physical and/or online library, 3 or more times a month

- **Compensation**

- \$10.00/hour

Process

- IRB, then demographic intake sheet and short questionnaire
- Semi-structured interview questions
- Photo activity
- Interview
- Follow-up interview, member check

Photo Prompt

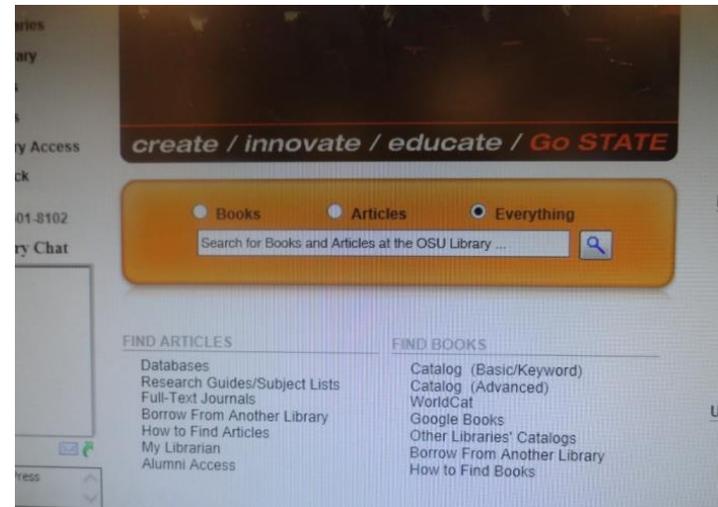
- Things you use in the building or online
- Favorite things
- Things you like or dislike
- Things that are confusing or easy
- New things you discover
- Interior or exterior things

Participants

- Amanda, Megan, Kellie, Sage, Charles
- Two have graduated and are applying to graduate schools. Three are still students at OSU.

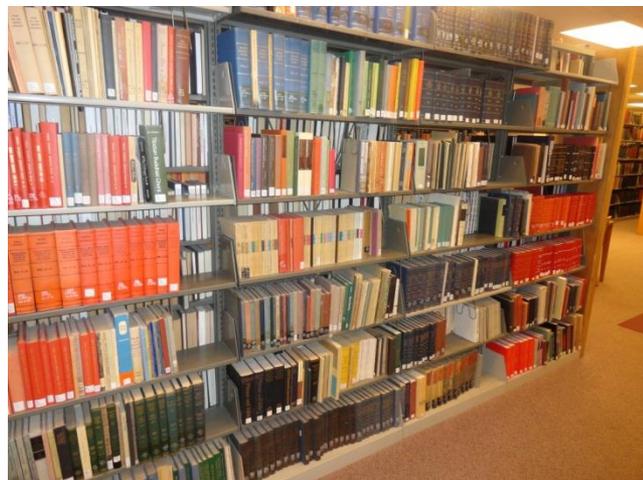
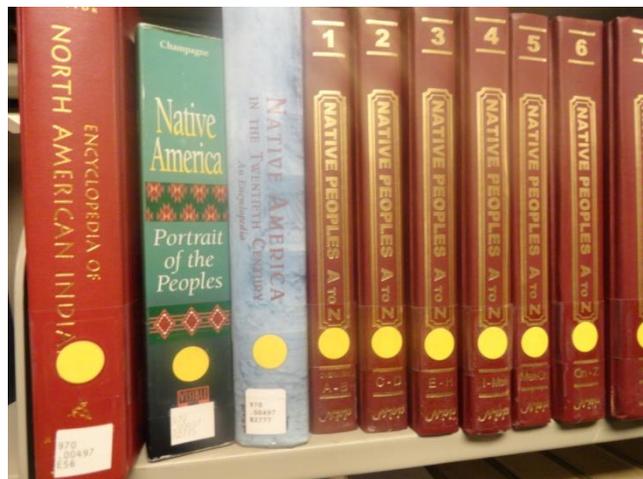


Study, Computers, Printers, Website



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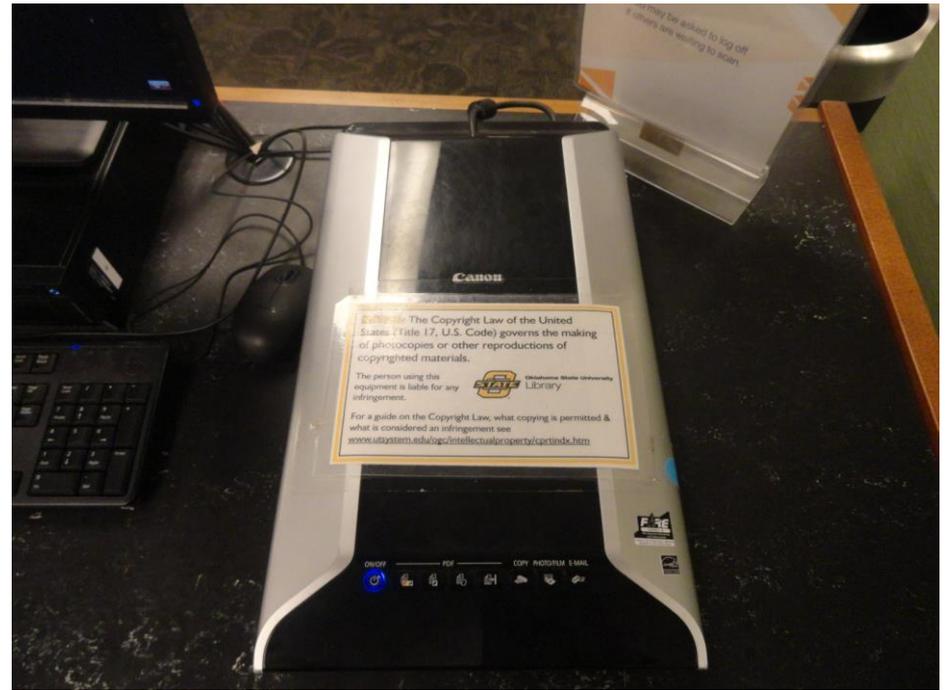
Surprising perceptions Books



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Megan

“The scanner was kind of a doozy... I was really scared to ask...I asked the librarian and he was reading his book, so I was kind of nervous to like approach him ...he told me where they were and I just went over, and he told me where the directions were...



I kind of wish he would have just walked over and said, “This is what you do”... I just didn’t want to mess the machine up.”
[laughs]



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“This shows how hard some people truly work. I think they’re so tired because they have been studying real hard for a real long time...(Kellie)



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“The Browsing Room has been a big part of my time at the library. We’ve used it so many times for Native American Student Association. This room had a Native books speaker series, and they brought the eagles there which was cool.” (Amanda)



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“I got to KNOW him. He’s no longer here. He knew the language, our culture, our traditional ways. These older generations are slowly dying out, and once that happens the culture gets lost.”
(Sage)



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Knowledge Gaps Services and Resources

- Library Reserves
- Interlibrary Loan
- Textbooks on Reserve
- Computer Logoff
- How to find a book

Also uncovered discrepancies

Potential Significance- value and impact of library, increase understanding of underrepresented students' library perceptions, and advancing potential uses of photovoice methodology

Potential Practical Benefits Include

Students:

- participate in research
- interact with faculty outside of the classroom
- empower
- help other students

Library:

- understand students
- improve services
- program and facilities planning
- training employees

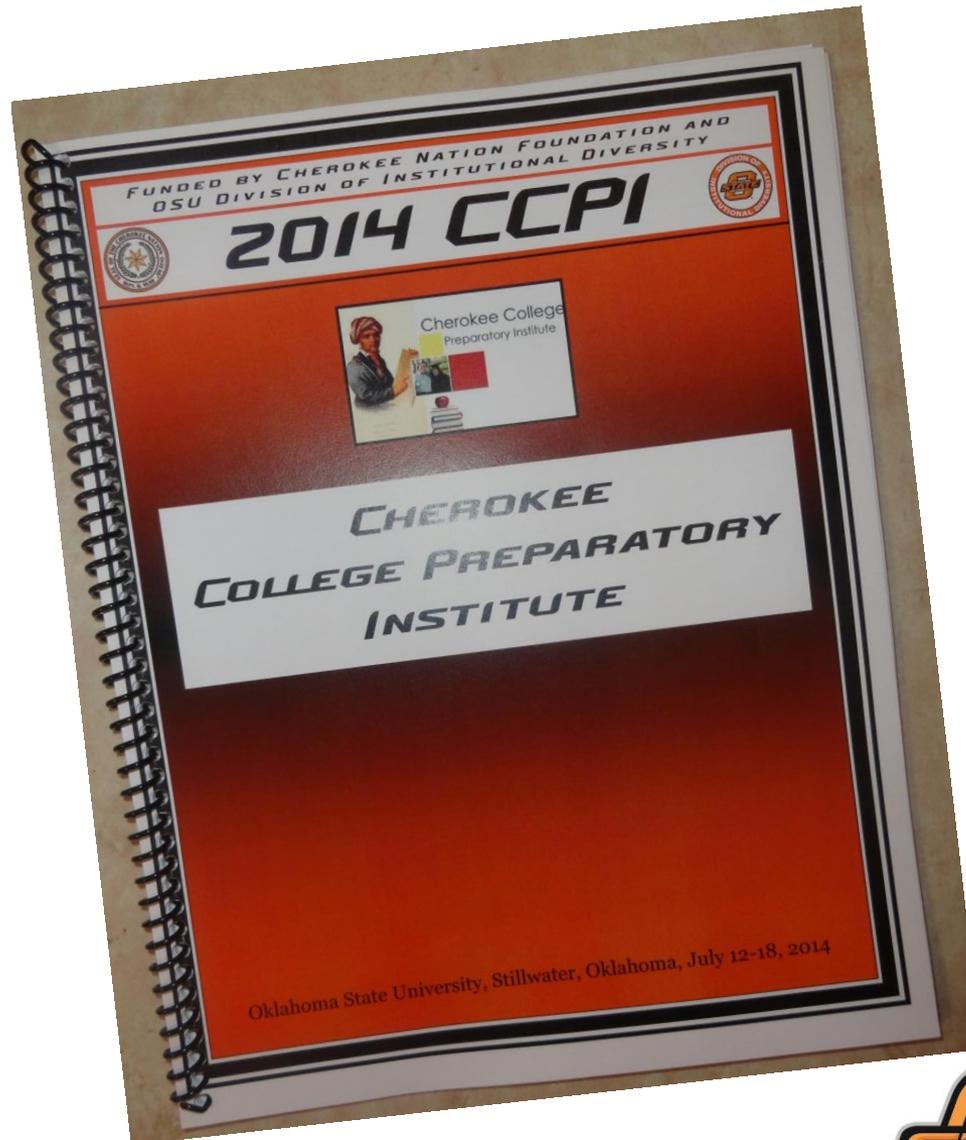


Ways to Present and Use the Data

- Photovoice exhibition
- Poetic representation

- Engaging with prospective students
- Showcasing research
- Inviting additional participation

Using the Data



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Signs

My other computer was on its last limb
it absolutely required a power outlet to
function.

During Finals Week

it is quite the hassle trying to find
a power outlet.

I always am aware of these signs,
I turned the corner and I saw this,
I knew this was a picture that needed to
happen.

I find these signs to be golden.



– Kellie



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Study Desk

I like to see traffic.

I have studied here multiple times, but it's so uncomfortable; it gets cold.

My bum gets sore after sitting there and studying for a while.

I find myself constantly fidgeting trying to lean back.

I found an accommodating thing, I often hijack or borrow stepstools for a footrest.

– Kellie



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When I'm stepping
into
this magnificent
door

I enter
a different frame of
mind,
an academic frame
of mind.

Study,
Focus,
Get this done.

– Kellie



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Questions

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