LORI TOWNSEND, UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
AMICAL 2015 CONFERENCE, MAY 29, 2015

NEGOTIATING THRESHOLDS: CONFLICT AND TRANSFORMATION IN THE LIMINAL SPACE

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

- Defining criteria & characteristics
- In information literacy
- Controversies
- In the liberal arts
- In practice

"A big idea is not necessarily vast in the sense of a vague phrase covering lots of content. Nor is a big idea a 'basic' idea. Rather, big ideas are at the 'core' of the subject; they need to be uncovered; we have to dig deep until we get the core. Basic ideas, by contrast, are just what the term implies—the basis for further work; for example, definitions, building-block skills, and rules of thumb. Ideas at the core of the subject, however, are ideas that are the hard-won results of inquiry, ways of thinking and perceiving that are the province of the expert."

- WIGGINS AND MCTIGHE, UNDERSTANDING BY DESIGN

NEW INFORMATION LANDSCAPE

TEACHING BIG IDEAS

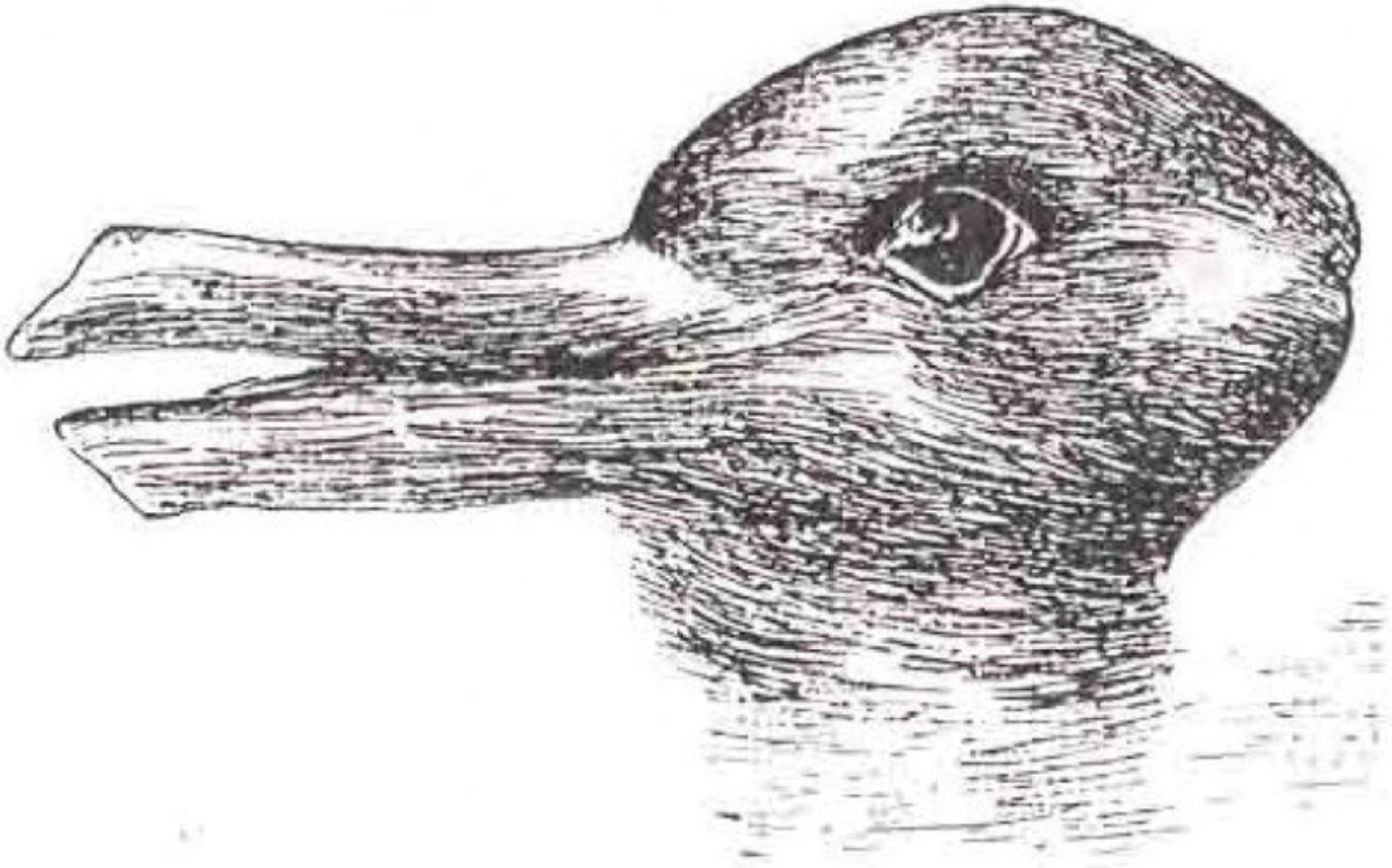
THRESHOLD CONCEPTS

"A threshold concept can be considered as akin to a portal, opening up a new and previously inaccessible way of thinking about something."
- Meyer & Land

TRANSFORMATIVE

TRANSFORMATIVE

IRREVERSIBLE



INTEGRATIVE

BOUNDED

TROUBLESOME

TRANSITIONAL, EXCITING, SCARY?

LIMINAL SPACE

COGNITIVE AND AFFECTIVE

OUR DISCIPLINARY LENS

Am I endorsing?

- [ ] Commodification
- [ ] Hegemony
- [x] Critical thinking

LITTLE LIBRARIANS?

PROPOSED INFORMATION LITERACY THRESHOLD CONCEPTS

MANY POSSIBILITIES

"a network of interconnected understandings"

- CRAIG GIBSON

THE RULES OF THE GAME

BIBLIOGRAPHIC
INSTRUCTION

A LIBRARY CREDIT COURSE AND STUDENT SUCCESS RATES: A LONGITUDINAL STUDY

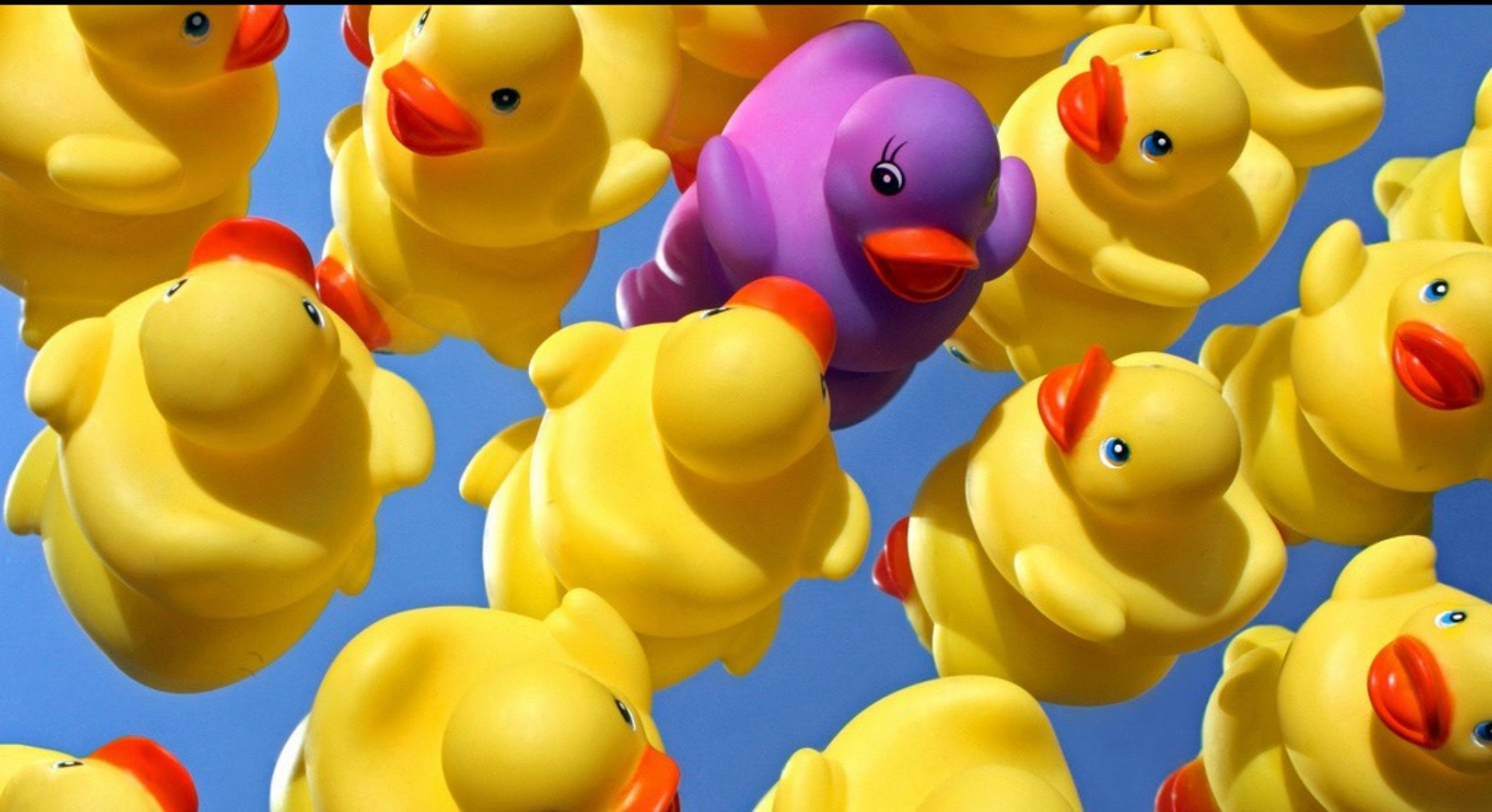
BY JEAN MARIE COOK

COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES

STUDENTS TAKING THE LIBRARY COURSE GRADUATED AT ALMOST **DOUBLE(!)** THE RATES OF STUDENTS WHO DIDN'T.

RULES OF THE ACADEMIC GAME

SHIFTING POPULATIONS



SHIFTING POPULATIONS

INFORMATION DESERT

FINDING THAT ONE
SPECIAL PLANT

INFORMATION JUNGLE
STILL LOOKING FOR THAT
ONE SPECIAL PLANT

REQUIRED "LIBRARY" CLASS + 1ST YEAR STUDENTS =

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT?

REVIEW AND RELEARN

MY EXPERIENCE, YOU MAY ALREADY BE THERE!

TEACHING
TRANSFERRABLE SKILLS

CHANGE IS HARD

CONTROVERSIES & CHALLENGES

"Recognizing the nature of information creation, experts look to the underlying processes of creation as well as the final product to critically evaluate the usefulness of the information."

-ACRL FRAMEWORK FOR INFORMATION LITERACY

ACRL Framework for Information Literacy

Frame

Threshold concept or
Big idea

Knowledge practices

Dispositions

"The task force has created a new document that establishes a theoretical basis for information literacy. This does not replace standards."

-THE "NEW JERSEY LETTER"

THRESHOLD CONCEPTS THEORY ALL WET?

FUZZY CRITERIA
HARD TO PIN DOWN?

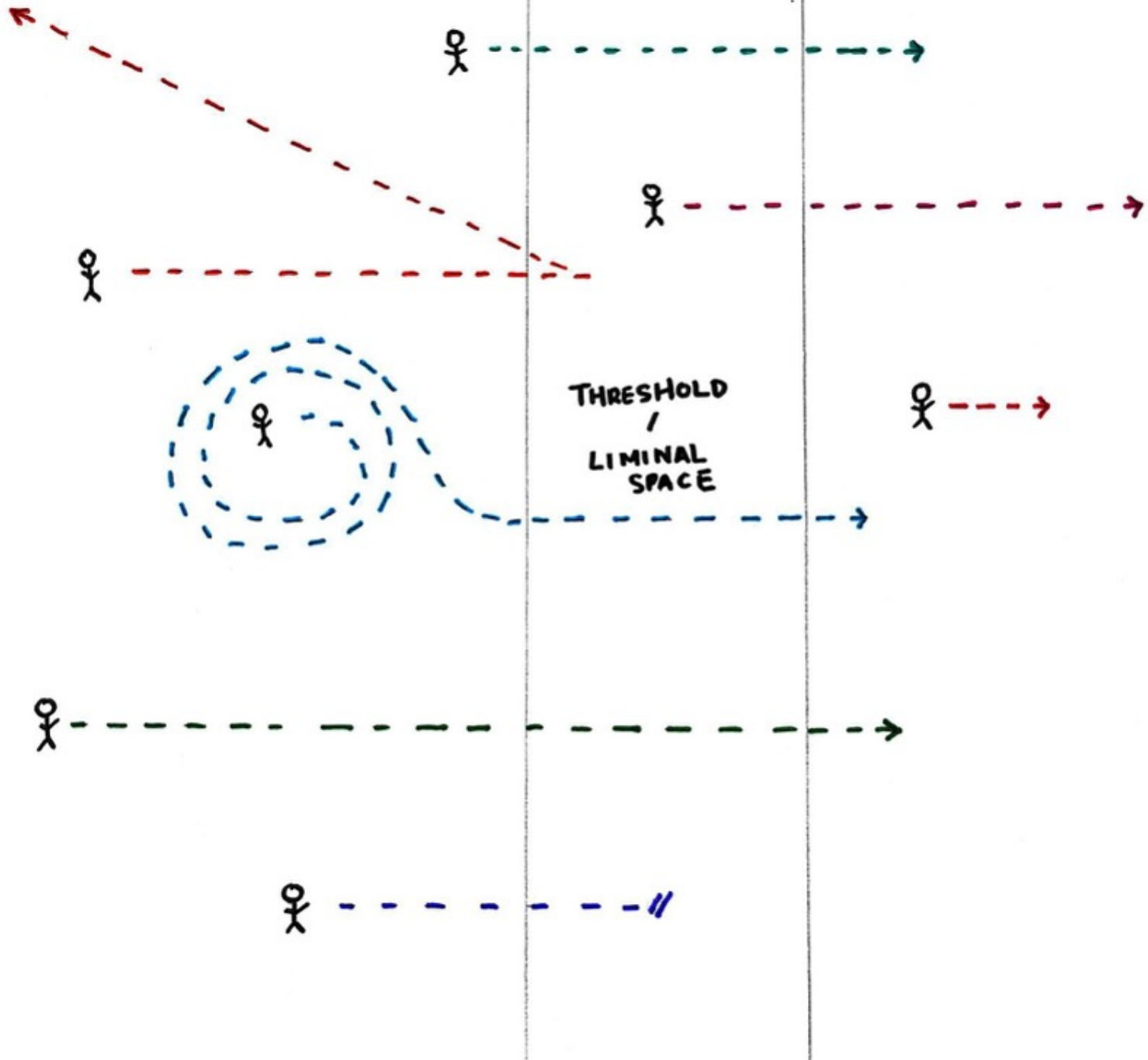
WHO NEEDS A TAIL?
WHEN YOU'RE THIS GORGEOUS?

WHAT
HE LACKS
IN FUR...

NOT
QUITE
EAR-
LESS
BUT CLOSE

Proven?
Poperinge

LEARNERS VARY


THRESHOLD
/
LIMINAL
SPACE

DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE
IS NOT UNIFIED
EXPERTS
DISAGREE

IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

REFLECTIVE
TEACHING

"HARD"
DISCIPLINES

HUMANITIES AND OTHER "SOFT" DISCIPLINES
LOW-CONSENSUS

JOY MCENTEE

FILM IN THE U.S.

“Lifelong students of film don’t cross thresholds so much as loiter in them.”

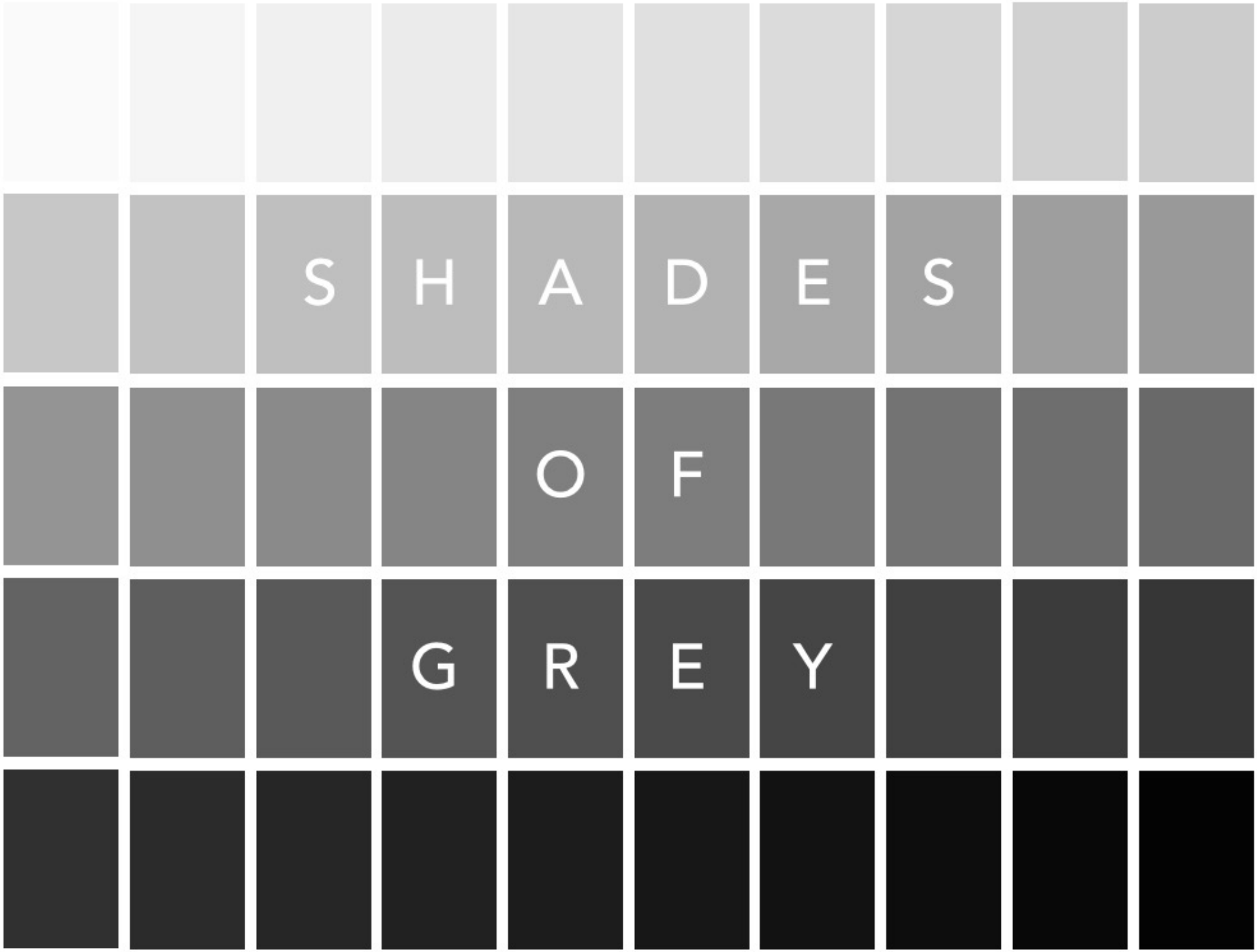
- JOY MCENTEE, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

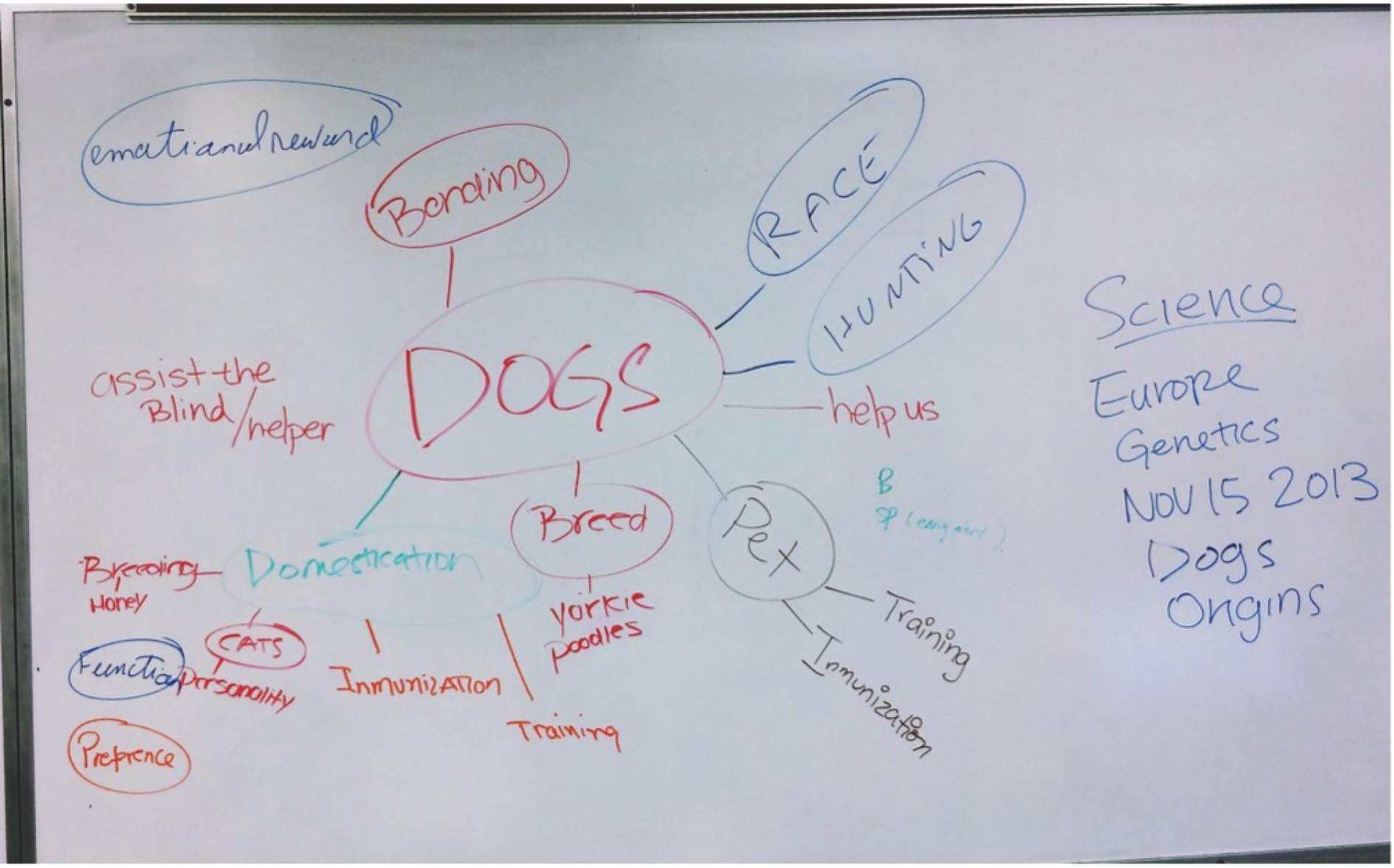
ADLER-KASSNER, L., MAJEWSKI, J., & KOSHNICK, D.
MULTIPLE NARRATIVES

THRESHOLD CONCEPTS IN PRACTICE

WHITE

BLACK


SHADES
OF
GREY


emotional reward
Bonding
RACE
HUNTING
DOGS
assist the Blind/helper
help us
Science
Europe
Genetics
NOV 15 2013
Dogs
Origins
Breed
Pet
Domestication
Breeding
Honey
CATS
Function
Personality
Preference
Immunization
Training
yorkie
poodles
Training
Immunization

What topics are you interested in researching?

Poll locked. Responses not accepted.

"WW2 Propaganda Posters"
2 months ago

"The Godfather"
2 months ago

"how the idea of a women's ideal body has changed over the
2 months ago

"Audrey Hepburn: did she have AIDS?"
2 months ago

"black women in newspapers civil rights movement"
2 months ago

"modeling in the 1970s until now"
2 months ago

"Sports. Jackie Robinson - one of the first black baseball players to play MLB.
2 months ago

"Audrey Hepburn"
2 months ago

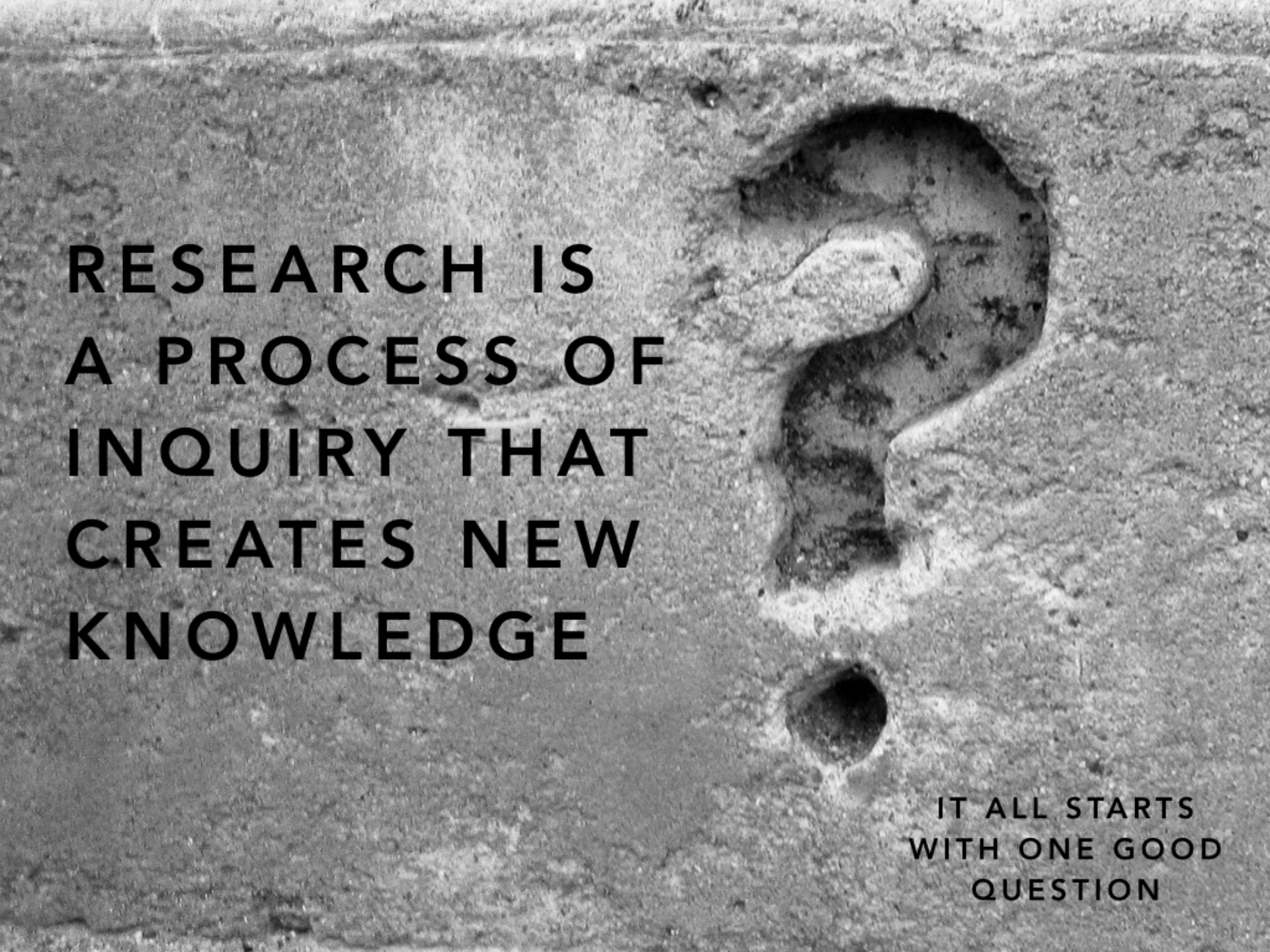
"how the idea of what is the "perfect" body for women has changed over the years"
2 months ago

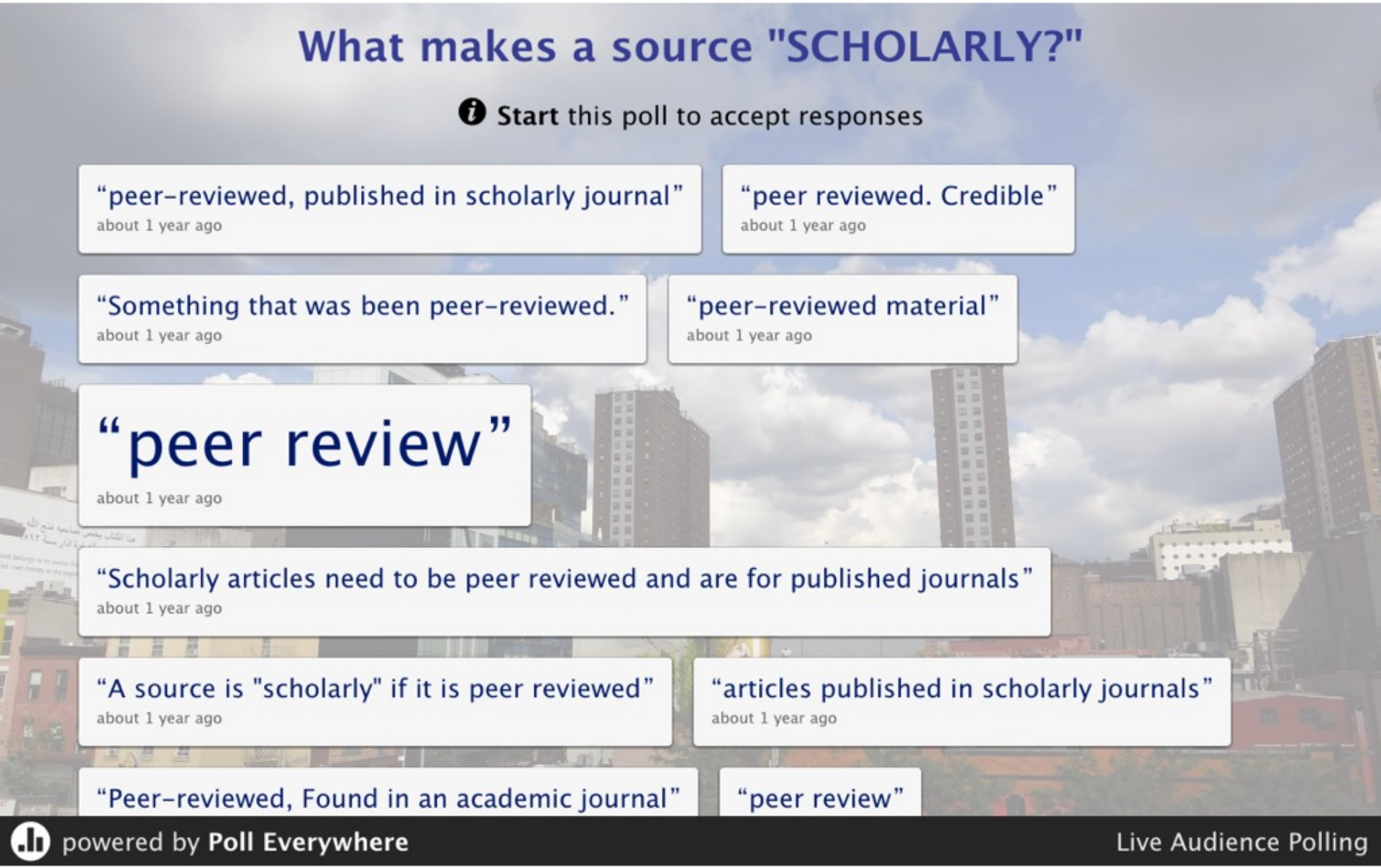
"history of investigative journalism"
2 months ago

"Advertisements for the Chanel perfume"
2 months ago

"The Lens of Gonzo: the death of the American dream, cynicism, fear, loathing, and mistrust in American politics and s
interpreted by Hunter S Thompson"

--:--
powered by Poll Everywhere Li


RESEARCH IS
A PROCESS OF
INQUIRY THAT
CREATES NEW
KNOWLEDGE
IT ALL STARTS
WITH ONE GOOD
QUESTION


What makes a source "SCHOLARLY?"
Start this poll to accept responses
“peer-reviewed, published in scholarly journal”
about 1 year ago
“peer reviewed. Credible”
about 1 year ago
“Something that was been peer-reviewed.”
about 1 year ago
“peer-reviewed material”
about 1 year ago
“peer review”
about 1 year ago
“Scholarly articles need to be peer reviewed and are for published journals”
about 1 year ago
“A source is "scholarly" if it is peer reviewed”
about 1 year ago
“articles published in scholarly journals”
about 1 year ago
“Peer-reviewed, Found in an academic journal”
“peer review”
powered by Poll Everywhere
Live Audience Polling

FLIPPING INSTRUCTION

UNM University Libraries

Section 1: Introduction to Information Formats

In this section you will learn about different information formats. Formats are a way to help you think about information and something you can use to evaluate information you find online or in print, whether using Google or library databases.

Two of the formats you'll often use in your research are books and journal articles. Think for a moment about the difference between books and journal articles.

Example of a Book. *Click image to enlarge.*

Example of a Journal Article *Click image to enlarge.*

In a few sentences, explain what is different about the information you find in each of those formats?

Previous Next

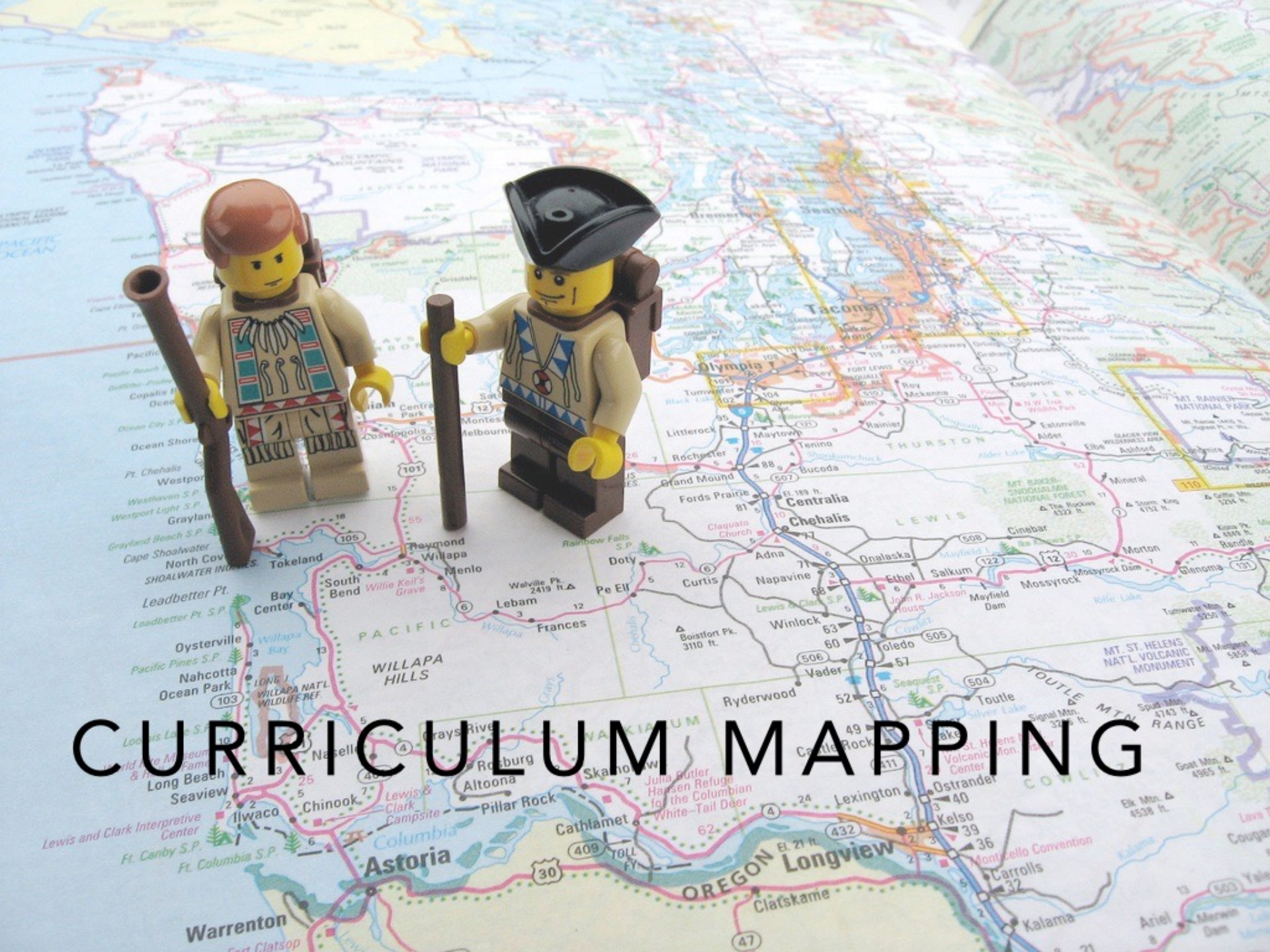
0% 100%

UNM | University Libraries

Now watch the Formats presentation below (use the arrows to move through it) and take the brief quiz afterwards.

SUCCESS?
Man's pics Photography

ASSESSMENT


CURRICULUM MAPPING

Level	Searching/Finding	Choosing/Evaluating	Using
Threshold concepts	- information structures - format - information commodities	- authority - format - research process	- research process - information commodities - scholarly discourse - information structures
High School	- Specific databases, multidisciplinary resources available to NM residents or free online - Boolean, truncation, wildcard - Keywords	- Tool selection - Relevance of sources to issue	- Research is a thing – it exists - Introduction to citation/plagiarism
Lower Division	- Platonic database and multidiscipinary databases - Boolean, truncation, wildcard - Keywords - Advanced Googling	- Scholarly vs. popular - Website evaluation - Information formats (basic) - Establishing credibility (authority)	- Topic development - Research as a process - Research solves problems and answers questions - Filling gaps in personal knowledge - Citation basics & plagiarism
Upper Division	- Disciplinary databases - Citation chaining (mostly backwards through references) - Data, primary sources, & primary research - Google Scholar	- Nature of scholarly sources & peer review - Primary sources & information formats in the discipline - Original/primary research - Filter bubble - Knowledge commons	- Asking meaningful questions (not yet original) - Understanding how questions get answered in a discipline - Structure of and recognizing gaps in disciplinary knowledge - IKEA research - Filling gaps in personal knowledge - Citation management - Copyright/fair use - Ethics in information use (e.g. privacy, social media)
Graduate	- Citation chaining (backwards and forwards through references, Web of Science, Google Scholar) - Building knowledge about individual sources of expertise in discipline - Data, primary sources & primary research - Literature reviews - Journal metrics - Advanced Google Scholar	- Journals in which to publish - Advanced disciplinary techniques for evaluation (including statistical analysis, expertise in disciplinary methodology) - Literature reviews - Primary sources in the discipline - Original/primary research	- Asking original questions - Identifying gaps in disciplinary knowledge and how they can be filled - Data management & issues in data - Open access - Advanced citation management - Copyright (as an information creator & user) - Ethics in information creation (e.g. privacy for researchers)

Threshold concept	High school	Lower division	Upper Division	Graduate
Authority	• Tool selection • Encourage skepticism! Who wrote the source, what organization, etc. • Basic web evaluation	• Establishing credibility (authority- it's fluid, contextual, cultural, subject to social, political influences) • Web evaluation • Scholarly vs. popular	• Nature of scholarly sources & peer review • Filter bubble • Literature reviews (basic & purpose)	• Building knowledge about individual sources of expertise in discipline • Filter bubble • Disciplinary models for establishing authority
Format	• Tool selection	• Scholarly vs. popular • Information formats (basic) • Web evaluation	• Nature of scholarly sources & peer review • Primary sources & information formats in the discipline • Original/primary research (finding and designing) • Advanced web evaluation	• Original/primary research (finding, designing and conducting) • Using and finding primary sources and evidence in the discipline
Information commodities	• Introduction to citation/ plagiarism • Using social media wisely	• Citation basics & plagiarism • Copyright basics - existence of copyright law and the concept of fair use • Library's role	• Copyright as students (fair use, creative commons, disciplinary stuff like image rights) • Filter bubble • Knowledge commons	• Open access • Copyright as professionals, in the context of publishing, presenting, selling • Filter bubble • Choosing journals for publishing
Information structures	• Specific databases, multidisciplinary resources available to NM residents or free online • Boolean, truncation, wildcard • Keywords	• "Platonic database" and multidisciplinary databases • Boolean, truncation, wildcard • Keywords • Advanced Googling	• Disciplinary databases • Google Scholar • Citation management	• Citation chaining (backwards and forwards through references, Web of Science, Google Scholar) • Advanced Google Scholar • Advanced citation/knowledge management • Data management & issues in data
Research process	• Relevance of sources to issue • Research is a thing – evidence comes from research	• Research solves problems and answers questions • Filling gaps in personal knowledge	• Asking meaningful questions (not yet original) • Understanding how questions get answered in a discipline	• Asking original questions • Identifying gaps in disciplinary knowledge and how they can be filled • Using and finding primary sources and evidence in the discipline • Literature reviews (purpose and writing of)

AMBITION
& ADVENTURE!

PLANT A
SEED

IMAGE CREDITS

- 2 Walking down the road: https://flic.kr/p/9Bu4iD
- 4 Quality has moved: https://flic.kr/p/4LKK1m
- 5 Blue light bulb https://flic.kr/p/AYxe2
- 6 Portal: https://flic.kr/p/uNa8d
- 7 City by day, city by night: https://flic.kr/p/2NQu74
- 8, 9 City by day, city by night: https://flic.kr/p/2NQu74
- 10 Bunny/duck http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:PSM_V54_D328_Optical_illusion_of_a_duck_or_a_rabbit_head.png
- 11 Escher fishes: https://flic.kr/p/dwUzB
- 12 Great wall of China: https://flic.kr/p/6Di4L
- 13 Confused guy: https://flic.kr/p/KrAR7
- 14 Kitten in tunnel: https://flic.kr/p/5g3YGw
- 15 Pair of owls: https://flic.kr/p/dfGWCh
- 16 Colored lens: https://flic.kr/p/inZ5S
- 18 Village of the Damned: http://denverlibrary.org/files/village-of-the-damned-original.jpg
- 20 Stuffed animals https://flic.kr/p/Airpa
- 21 Spider web with dew: https://flic.kr/p/7tnTKo

IMAGE CREDITS (CONT.)

- 28 Yellow smiley https://flic.kr/p/ijssi9
- 31 Zombie board game https://flic.kr/p/ny696u
- 32 Yellow rubber ducks with purple https://flic.kr/p/bqa5Ty
- 33 All kind of rubber ducks https://flic.kr/p/g3LV26
- 34 Red flowers in desert landscape https://flic.kr/p/ejtCeJ
- 35 Rainforest https://flic.kr/p/bsGWvW
- 36 Bored woman https://flic.kr/p/94a1Y
- 38 Girl studying on floor https://flic.kr/p/8x3sek
- 32 Blue light bulb https://flic.kr/p/AYxe2
- 41 Frayed rope: https://flic.kr/p/edD6Te
- 42 Wet cat: https://flic.kr/p/dGxGfq
- 43 Hummingbirds https://flic.kr/p/8XJnf9
- 44 Bobtail http://i.imgur.com/b5dIPoH.jpg
- 45 Sphynx cat http://purrfectcatbreeds.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/sphynx-cat4.gif
- 46 Scottish fold http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/83/Lilac_Scottish_Fold.jpg
- 47 Proven https://flic.kr/p/5ASbks

IMAGE CREDITS (CONT.)

- 48 Children racing: https://flic.kr/p/bzVqr2
- 49 Silvia Lu
- 50 Impalas https://flic.kr/p/3WchAa
- 52 Reflective lilies https://flic.kr/p/8A4dFD
- 53 Forensic scientist: https://flic.kr/p/bSdJsa
- 54 Drama masks https://flic.kr/p/7RJfXw
- 55 Hollywood sign http://cdn.history.com/sites/2/2013/11/california-hollywood-sign.jpg
- 57 Boat at sunset in multiple pics https://flic.kr/p/smcu2
- 62 Question mark in stone: https://flic.kr/p/8ntAXt
- 64 Skier upside down https://flic.kr/p/7CKyM1
- 67 Kids jumping for joy in sunset https://flic.kr/p/5FYvHk
- 68 Measure https://flic.kr/p/Pp93n
- 69 Lego explorers on map https://flic.kr/p/3CaBwQ
- 72 Climbing in snow https://flic.kr/p/4pq3HM
- 73 Seedlings: https://flic.kr/p/bFbH9

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- Wuetherick, B., & Loeffler, E. (2013). Threshold concepts and decoding the humanities: A case study of a threshold concept in art history.

THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS?