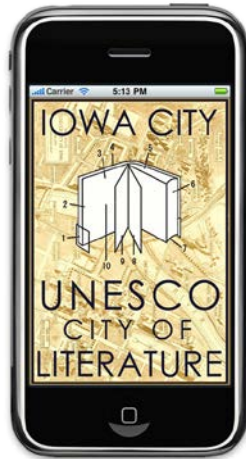


“City of Lit” and “Local Heroes” Mobile Apps

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The Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature app (“City of Lit”) features information on Iowa City’s rich literary history, highlighting authors and local sites of interest. Visitors can guide themselves around town in literary style -- the app offers maps of Iowa City, with embedded electronic “brass plaques” indicating a variety of unique locations: where historic readings took place, where authors wrote and lived, as well as the legendary taverns and haunts where writers gathered to argue and discuss. Author profiles, biographical and bibliographic information are complemented with audio and video clips. In addition, the app features “News” and “Events” tabs that are constantly updated with reports from Iowa City: goings-on around town, readings, book launches, films and lectures.

The app represents a collaboration between university and community partners in Iowa City, and research for the app is collaboratively authored by researchers, undergraduate students, and members of the community. Our research team in Iowa City includes 18 researchers from the departments of library and information science, computer science, art, and English, along with local civic leaders; over 100 undergraduate students have contributed research to the app.

“City of Lit” is now a template for other communities to create multimedia biographies of “Local Heroes.” Our first collaborative exchange is with partners in Monmouth, IL, where students from Monmouth College and members of the community are researching “Local Heroes” as part of the new Warren County Virtual Museum in collaboration with the UCOL team in Iowa City. The Monmouth team includes 6 community stakeholders and 45 student researchers to date.

Timeline

- 2008 Iowa City designated a UNESCO City of Literature; UCOL team formed and app development begins
- 2010 “City of Lit” launched for Apple devices; general education literature students begin researching content for the app
- 2011 “City of Lit” mobile web app launched
- 2012 Warren County Virtual Museum team formed, and citizenship students at Monmouth begin research
- 2013 Citizen Scholar teams begin self-paced literary research project with UNESCO City of Literature Organization and Iowa City Public Library, in concert with development of a guide; Local Heroes College for Kids includes 6-grade researchers in content development

Collaborative Presentations & Publications

We have presented “City of Lit” and “Local Heroes” at HASTAC (2010), Imagining America (2010), the Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science (2010), the Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (2011), iConfernece (2011), and The Future of the Archives in an Electronic Age symposium (2011). In addition, we were accepted to the University of Denver's 2011-2012 Institute for the Digital Humanities Fellowship, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Hsieh, Haowei, Bridget Draxler, Nicole Dudley, and Jon Winet. “The ‘City of Lit’ Digital Library—A Case Study of Interdisciplinary Research and Collaboration.” *The Joint Conference on Digital Libraries*. (2012), pp. 203-12. <http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=2232856>

Draxler, Bridget, Haowei Hsieh, Nicole Dudley, and Jon Winet. “‘City of Lit’: Collaborative Research in Literature and New Media.” *The Journal of Interactive Technology and Pedagogy* 1 (2012).<http://jitp.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2012/city-of-lit-collaborative-research-in-literature-and-new-media/>

Draxler, Bridget, Haowei Hsieh, Nicole Dudley, and Jon Winet. “Undergraduate Peer Learning and Public Digital Humanities Research.” *E-Learning and Digital Media*. 9.3 (2012), pp. 284-97. http://www.worlds.co.uk/elea/content/pdfs/9/issue9_3.asp

Hsieh, Haowei, Nicole Dudley, Bridget Draxler, Jon Winet, Lauren Haldeman, Jim Cremer, Dat Nguyen, and Peter Likarish. “UCOL - Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature Mobile Application Research & Development.” *Journal of the Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science*, 1.3 (August 2011), pp. 1-17. <https://letterpress.uchicago.edu/index.php/jdhcs/article/view/83>

Hsieh, Haowei, Bridget Draxler, Nicole Dudley, Jim Cremer, Lauren Haldeman, Dat Nyugen, Peter Likarish, and Jon Winet. “Facilitating Content Creation and Content Research in Building the ‘City of Lit’ Digital Library.” *The Joint Conference on Digital Libraries*. (2011), pp. 145-48. <http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?doid=1998076.1998104>

Budget

The overall budget for City of Lit is in excess of \$100,000 coming primarily from graduate and undergraduate research assistantships. The Monmouth College Local Heroes’ budget stands at \$10,000. In 2012 we applied for an NEH Implementation grant, without success. Monmouth College applied successfully for an Illinois Broadband grant.

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Links

UCOL mobile web app: <http://dsph.uiowa.edu/vwu/ucol/mobile/>

Download the “City of Lit” app from iTunes:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/the-iowa-city-unesco-city/id396516495?mt=8>

Warren County Virtual Museum: <http://warrencountyvirtualmuseum.com/>