

Digital Libraries Colloquium Series

The future of digital libraries & information technologies

Lowry Burgess

Muses in the Library

Wednesday, March 1

Noon-1 p.m.

Rangos 3, University Center

Carnegie Mellon University

Light refreshments

ABSTRACT It is my contention that as the 'cyber-ization' of information provides more and more disembodied information access, the physical library becomes eroticized (a place of direct social and sensory contact) and more a 'muse-eum' where the various muses dwell—those companions of Apollo, guardian of boundless human inspiration. The new library becomes a 'Wunderkammer,' a place for 'musing' and wonder, a place of direct contact and interaction with people, ideas, and multiple library objects and systems.

However, existing information systems are generally blind to human factors and exhibit a preponderance of 'geek-dumb.' I propose that multimedia and integrated media projects and interfaces could effectively interact with and enhance the actuality of a library, creating an ideal new library. The challenge is to envision such a library and to build test projects to inform future library systems and physical design at Carnegie Mellon.

BIO **Lowry Burgess** is an internationally renowned **environmental artist/poet and educator**. He is **Professor of Art** and **former dean** of the College of Fine Arts at **Carnegie Mellon**. He is a distinguished fellow in the **Studio for Creative Inquiry** that supports advanced research in the interdisciplinary arts and a member of the **Center for the Arts and Society**, both at Carnegie Mellon. Among other distinguished academic appointments, he was a fellow and senior consultant at the **Center for Advanced Visual Studies** at **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** for 25 years. His artworks and documents are in museums, archives and collections in the US, Europe and Japan. He is a staunch library supporter and patron.



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