Archival Forests and Soil Stories

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Framing the Work

Creating opportunities for accessing archival materials and developing educational content around those materials brought enhanced meaning to my archival description and processing work. During this description and processing work, I was motivated to think about how past practices in natural resource extraction Based on the desired learning outcomes I taught two related to the current climate crisis; and I am hopeful that by introducing students to these materials they might be inspired to 'learn from the past'.

Acknowledgements

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Communicating Value

- Challenge: Understanding, communicating, and adapting the values and relevancies of archival materials to current research projects and coursework in Forestry and related disciplines.
- Opportunity: Traditional channels of liaising with faculty and students are helpful, however being ready to recruit potential new archives users at any moment is just as, if not more, important.
- Examples: Attending student-run events, interdisciplinary networking opportunities, brining business cards everywhere!

About the Course: UFOR 420 Ecology of Urban Green Infrastructure

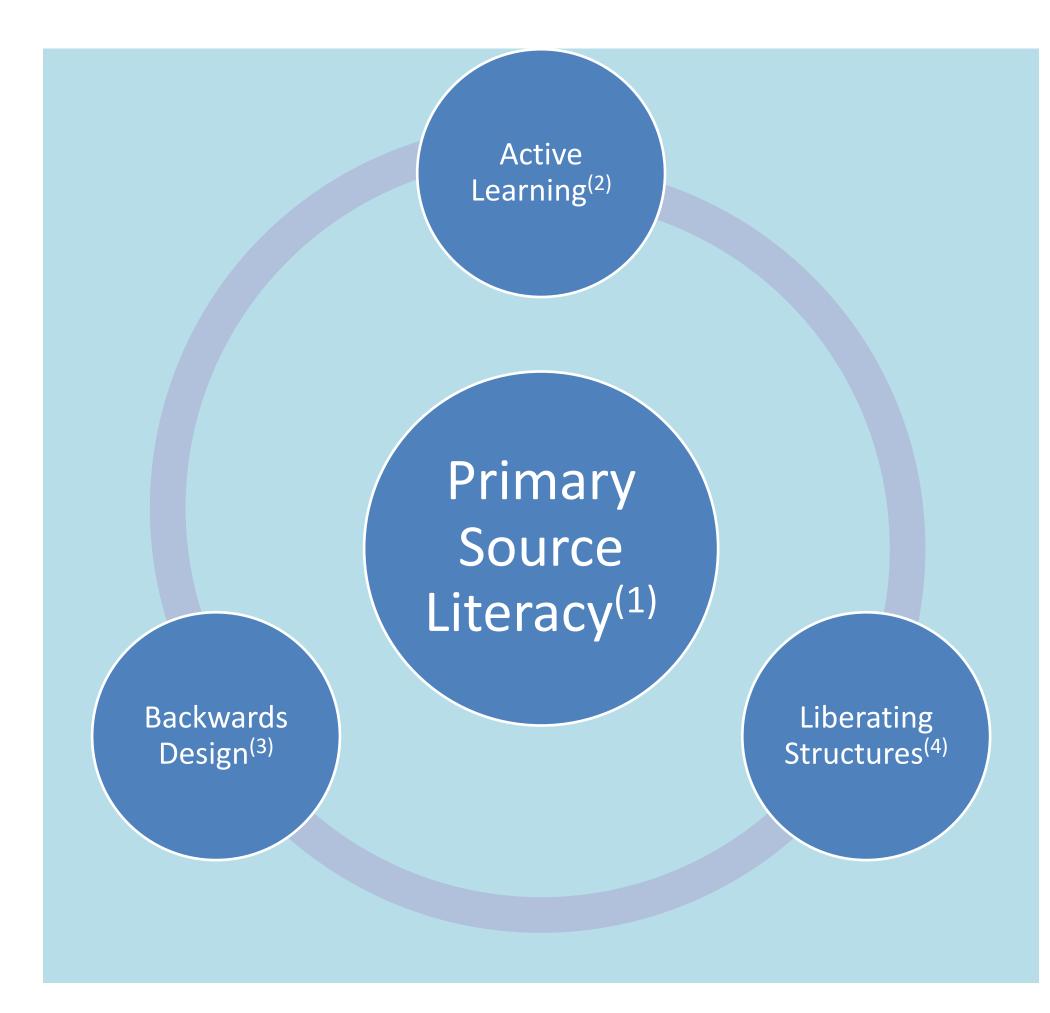
"The nature and dynamics of urban ecosystems with emphasis on urban forests and greenspaces. The role of green infrastructure in urban sustainability with particular focus on the ecological impact of urban forest management, design, and policy decisions.

- Comprised of 8 4th year undergraduate Forestry Students and 2 auditing graduate students.
- separate class-sessions which together would meet different aspects of each outcome: the first one in the RBSC reading room and the second in the Forestry student's regular classroom.

Discipline Challenges

- Mutual learning and application of disciplinespecific language and practices
- https://soilweb.ca/vancouver-soil-map/

Lesson Design



Elements of Primary Source Literacy⁽¹⁾

- Analytical Concepts 3. Theoretical Concepts
- 4. Practical Considerations Ethical Concepts

Introduction to Archives and **Archival Forests: Lesson 1**

- Learning Outcome: Students will gain familiarity with RBSC, as well as an introduction to working with and interpreting primary sources related to land use history.
- Materials: Maps, photograph album, and textual records (soil survey and soil analyses) Outline:
- Introduction to RBSC (Practical Considerations, Ethical Concepts)
- Working with Primary Sources: Observe, hypothesize, analyze: reflect on differences between observations, hypotheses and descriptions (Analytical Concepts)
- 1-2-4 all: What's changed about your perception of primary sources? Why are primary sources important to land use history/your work? (Analytical Concepts)

Tell Me A Soil Story: Lesson 2

- Learning Outcome: Students will gain experience, tools, and resources for searching for Primary Sources, and working with digital descriptions and digitized content to analyze land use history.
- Resources: Handout outlining various types of repositories, basic searching methods Outline:
- Introduction to Finding Sources and Locating Primary Sources (Practical Considerations, Analytical Concepts)
- Tell Me A Soil Story (Theoretical concepts, practical considerations, analytical concepts)
- 1. Decide on place to research, and timeline to focus on. Find secondary and tertiary sources.
- 2. Generate a list of terms to help you search for sources about this place. Search at various repositories
- 3. Share your story/process with the class.

Clearing the Point Grey Campus

One method I shared with the students was focusing on changes in terminology of names of places and past events : this photo was a result from a keyword search in UBC Open Collections for 'clearing'. The photograph shows a pile of felled wood in the foreground and standing forest in the background.



ollection: UBC 1.1/3-1 doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.14288/1.0019215

Evaluations



Future Work

- Increased outreach and education with Faculty and students at UBC
- Potential for connecting this work to related and ongoing issues including reconciliation, loss of biodiversity, racialized environmental Injustice, and the climate crisis
- Strengthening networks of archivists working in/with materials related to natural resource history and STEM more broadly.

References:

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