

The Information Lifecycle of Landmarks

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Introduction

- Landmarks is the UT public art program
- Funded by percentage of project funds
- Aims to improve the campus aesthetically and navigationally (Waller Creek Corridor)
- Preservation Guild and volunteer Docents

Create

- Information creation at Landmarks is a generative and regenerative process
- Landmarks and artists engage in ‘futuring’
- Lots of hidden work and workers

Find

- Landmarks finds and assembles information from a broad set of sources, both within and outside of the UT community
- 71% of volunteers surveyed consulted reference materials often during the course of their duties, and rely heavily on the Landmarks website and other online resources to find various kinds of information

Understand

- In information life cycles, “use” implies understanding
- Workplace hierarchies influence how information is understood
- Landmarks volunteers reference information on Web site and in print materials, implying that they know how to close gaps in understanding information

Share

Landmarks shares information by:

1. Docent led tours & Educational Materials
2. Promotional materials

But...

reticent to share certain things...

Transform

- Art transforms spaces and spaces transform art
- Transformation can serve new audience or new purpose
- Landmarks transforms knowledge and external information into supporting materials (signs, maps, website, etc.)

Preserve

- Internal documentation and collections management
 - Spreadsheets and Microsoft SharePoint
 - UT's IT Policies, Standards, and Guidelines for data stewardship
- Landmarks Preservation Guild
 - Volunteer interns, objects conservator
 - Dry and wet cleaning, waxing, condition reports
 - Initial and continuing education trainings

Conclusions

- Acquisitions are facilitated by Landmarks' connections to the wider art community.
- Creation of secondary materials requires transformation of the information that is found and understood, so that new audiences and purposes can be served.
- Landmarks must also preserve its other materials, to improve institutional memory and the consistency of the information shared.
- Landmarks would be well served by conducting some brief surveys of their staff, volunteers, and audience.