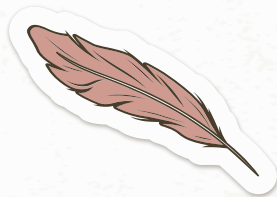# Folksonomy in Fandom: A catalog of Our Own

Clara Beck

Me

My name is Clara Beck.
I have a BA in English from a small liberal arts college, I walk with a cane, and I have a passion for cataloging, folksonomies, instruction, and fanfiction.

This project is the culmination of 6 straight years of higher education and following my dreams.
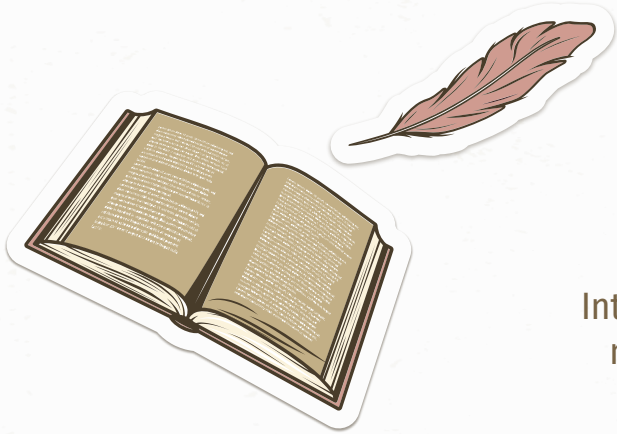
My Sponsor (Trent)

My sponsor is Trent Hill.
He's an associate teaching professor with an MLIS and a PhD in American Literature.

I chose Dr. Hill because I wanted to develop this seminar so that I could teach it primarily to undergraduate English majors. I also know that he has great experience with cataloging.

I had classes with him in the past and trusted him to guide me honestly and earnestly.

OBJECTIVES

01

Introduce undergraduate English majors to cataloging in a way that makes sense to them

02

Compare the Archive of Our Own (AO3) folksonomy to the widely used Library of Congress (LOC) cataloging system

03

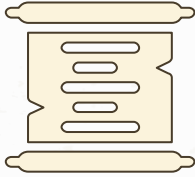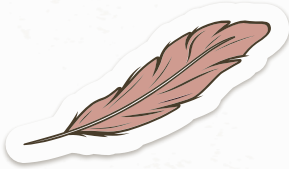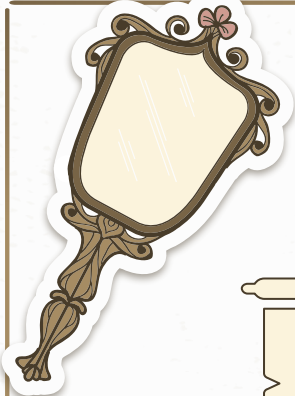Explore how folksonomies and taxonomies are different and why that's important for AO3

04

Explore why the folksonomy that is specific to AO3 is relevant and important

05

Develop a seminar for undergraduates that can be taught after graduation

My Insights

01 Developing a class including lecture, lecture slides, lecture notes, assignments, and discussions is much more difficult than it first appears

02 The more I explored this topic, the more I fell in love with cataloging and folksonomy as cataloging

03 Archive of Our Own (AO3) was formed from a need for a place to create and so was the folksonomy it uses

04 It takes a lot of work to keep the AO3 folksonomy flowing smoothly

05 The differences between the LOC taxonomy and the AO3 folksonomy are almost innumerable and for good reasons

My Approach

Idea
2 ambitions: To teach undergraduate students and find a way to use my passion for fanfiction and AO3

Questions
Can I actually develop a full, semester long class? (No I can't, but I can create a seminar)

Research
Research on teaching undergraduate students, folksonomy, fanfiction, and Archive of Our Own (AO3)

Reality
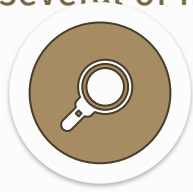This took a lot of hard work for such a short seminar, but now it's real and it can be taught immediately

Evaluation

I Had Fun

This was a great way to push myself academically while combining several of my passions

I Can't Wait

To put this project out in the world and hopefully teach it someday

Lots of Research

This project took lots of research and lots of time to make into a reality, but it was al worth it

A Fitting Finale

After 6 years of higher education and following my dreams, this seems like a wonderful and fulfilling end to my academic career as a student

Next Steps

- ❖ This project is designed to be taught at a any time and anywhere for any number of students. Ideally, I would be the person to teach it, but it could be taught by anyone.

- ❖ The next step would be to develop this into a larger format and eventually turning it into a full course that can be taught to students for credit.