Thesis topic:
Teaching Book Arts in the Classroom to Enhance Education

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Overview

- Importance of this project
- The process of developing my thesis (Italy-today)
- Research paper: The History of Book Arts
- Unit Plan on Book Arts: My website
- Concluding thoughts
Books are a central component of our society.
The process of making books, is a lost art that needs to be brought to light.
Books are the foundation of education: Books can enhance learning in our students.

“In the middle of the last century, the crafts involved in making books became arts as printing technology began moving away from what was then the 500-year-old letterpress process.” (Kit Almy)
How did this project come about?

Study Abroad

- I spent time exploring hands-on book arts, in a studio in Venice and Cornuda.
- From visiting old printmaking studios and art museums, to exploring ancient libraries and creating my own book art, the history of the book came alive.
- Upon returning home, I continued to see the relationship and connections between book arts and education (teaching kids).
Italy
Italy
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Italy
Internship

After returning from Italy for study abroad, I completed an internship at the Kalamazoo Book Arts Center in Kalamazoo.

I was able to…
- Expand my knowledge of book art.
- Create my own book art.
- Teach and aide in teaching hands-on workshops to groups of elementary school students.
Bookmaking workshops
The bulk of my thesis project consists of a research paper, on the history of book art and incorporating book arts education into school curriculum.

The importance of **content knowledge**: As a teacher, it is important to fully research and look into the lesson topic or standard, before it is taught. This allows the teacher to guide conversations in the classroom and to ask good questions.
A History of Books

“A book can have an almost magical or spiritual quality as the conveyor of a text”
Early writing

The text and ideas within
“A book is no mere collection of words, paper, ink. It is also, and foremost, the ideas that stand behind those symbols, those sounds, those pictures”
Papyrus, Vellum, and Paper
Illustration and Calligraphy:
When books were made by hand
The world of books is the most remarkable creation of man.
Nothing else that he builds ever lasts.
Monuments fall; nations perish; civilizations grow old and die out;
And after an era of darkness, new races build others.
But in the world of books are volumes that have seen this happen,
Again and again, and yet lives on, still young, still as fresh as the
day they were written.
Still telling men’s hearts of the hearts of men centuries dead.
-Clarence Day
Printmaking and Typography

“There is nothing like the discipline of typesetting, to make someone really come to grips with and understand a text”
“Even after the invention of printing in the mid-15th century and the exponential increase in availability of texts, the book retained it’s almost magical hold on the imagination and intellect”
Bookbinding

Lost in Venezia
“Books are timeless. They will wait for us on the shelves of libraries as surely as a clay tablet buried in the Middle East”
In the classroom...

Book Arts for the Classroom: Website
https://sites.google.com/site/bookbuilders2015/
How does this connect to education?

- The history of the book is intertwined in our world history, and the current curriculum taught in elementary schools.
- Creating book art is a hands-on, engaging experience for children.
- Implementing book arts in the classroom, can enhance any core subject curriculum.
- There is something magical about books that has not disappeared over time. Bringing book arts into the classroom enhances the importance of books and literacy in our children.
What do kids have to say about books?

**Videos with my students:** Edison Environmental Science Academy

[Video interviews: What do kids have to say?](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B6DljQrwMEELaTdhSzc3QzBRYVk/edit?usp=drive_web)
Final thoughts

- Thank you to the Lee Honors College
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