

This is a transcript of the video clip “Cindy’s Ukulele Literacy Story” from the interview with Dr. Cynthia Selfe in Samuel Head, “A Scholarly Legacy: Professor Cynthia Selfe and the Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives” published in *Kairos: Rhetoric, Technology, Pedagogy*, 22(1), available at <http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/22.1/interviews/head>.

Sam:

So tell me a story about a personal literacy experience and maybe one that's impacted your view of literacy.

Dr. Selfe:

Well I've told many stories for the DALN. I told stories about learning how to read, reading cereal boxes, and singing songs that my mother taught me. But the most recent experience with the literacy that has opened my eyes to how difficult and complex the endeavor can be, has been learning the ukulele. And it's an instrument that I just took up a couple of years ago, and I've been in several small clubs learning how to play, and learning how to read music and musical notation, and how to formulate chords. And it has opened my eyes to both the discipline that's required and the practice that's required to become better at this effort of reading a symbolic system and communicating what that symbolic system conveys, composing, in other words, but also how attitude has to figure into that process. If it weren't for the fact that I really enjoyed learning how to play the ukulele, that I took some delight in it, some pleasure, I don't think I would be able to go through the discipline of learning how to play. So that reminds me of just how similar that particular process is and that complex of factors is for people who are learning to read and compose alphabetically.