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LIS 258: Museum Informatics

Dr. Christine Angel

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Interactive Technology

Online Exhibit Information:

Website/Exhibit Link: <http://cams.allaboutbirds.org>

The online exhibit I chose to analyze for this project is the Bird Cams page set up by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This group, out of Cornell University, has a page called “All About Birds,”¹ which provides research guides and live feeds to learn about birds. I believe this would be a great resource to be used with my artwork. The creation of an online exhibit to discuss the research implications of Audubon’s drawings and of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron as a species; accompanied by a live camera feed of it in its natural habitat throughout the American continents.

The primary point of this online platform is the learning and view of individual types of birds. The site provides live feeds for several different species as well as species info, frequently asked questions, individual bird sounds and information about the nest and its location.² The site provides videos and research for species around the

¹ All About Birds, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Accessed April 2, 2017, https://www.allaboutbirds.org/#_ga=2.129095436.1095482419.1522698871-2098185482.1522508369.

² Barred Owls, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Accessed April 2, 2017, http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/43/Barred_Owls/.

world. The most important element of this is the visibility of different species. It allows researchers to access a live feed of a specific bird to help further understand how it lives as a species. I think that the organization and the website designers saw how important this prospect was and made it a highlight of the website. Accompanied with scientific research and information, these live feeds of birds allow researchers to combine visual study and scientific research to accurately understand and discuss species.

My Object:

I believe this is a good format for an exhibit based around my chosen artwork. The creation of an online exhibit to discuss the research implications of Audubon's drawings and of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron as a species; accompanied by a live camera feed of it in its natural habitat throughout the American continents. My chosen artifact is different than others because it is both important for its artistic nature but also for scientific purposes. The Audubon drawings are one of the largest collections of ornithological drawings and allow researchers to view drawings of hundreds of species. For this reason an online exhibit that combines the artistic and scientific importance of my object, the drawing of the Yellow-Crowned Night-heron makes the most sense. My online exhibit would include several live feeds of this species because of its various habitat locations from the south Atlantic coast as far north as Ohio, Michigan and Ontario.³ It would also include images and important scientific information to the species. Another section of the exhibit would be focused on my work and its artistic importance. The Yellow-crowned Night-heron drawing in the collection of the New York

³ Yellow-crowned Night-heron, All About Birds, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Accessed April 2, 2017, https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Yellow-crowned_Night-Heron/lifehistory.

Historical society would be displayed and discussed based on its importance as an individual artwork and within the larger collection of Audubon drawings.

Target Audience:

There are a number of possible audiences for an exhibition such as this, the main two would be Ornithologists and STEAM program students. Ornithologists are scientists who study birds. This exhibit would be a good resource for them because it will bring together Audubon's drawings and the observation physical species. These two things are often kept separate since the drawings are held by the New York Historical Society (an art/history institution) and the rest is handled by scientists at universities and ornithological societies, such as those at Cornell. Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) is what has recently replaced STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in recent educational reform. The introduction of art into this group is important to help provide a better rounded education. Opportunities for students to combine several pieces of this platform, such as science and art, is extremely important. My online exhibit would help students combine scientific research and art. The Audubon drawings, including the Yellow-crowned Night-heron, are on their own lifelike drawings of a large number of bird species and are important to the larger genre of anatomical and realistic drawing. As discussed earlier this collection is also the largest collection of ornithological drawings and for years has provided vital assistance into scientific research.⁴

⁴ Special Collections, New York Historical Society, Accessed March 25, 2018, <http://www.nyhistory.org/exhibits/collections/list>.

References

All About Birds. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Accessed April 2, 2017. https://www.allaboutbirds.org/#/_ga=2.129095436.1095482419.1522698871-2098185482.1522508369.

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