Teaching with Textile Collections

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RBMS Annual Meeting

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Textiles at Tech

• Historic connections to textile industry
  • Fulton Bag and Cotton Mill, 1870s-1970s
Textiles at Tech

• Textile engineering department and shop
Rare Books

- Textile production and sample books
Rare Books

• Textile art and pattern books
University Archives Clothing

- Sweaters, RAT caps, uniforms
1996 Olympics Clothing & Memorabilia

- Olympic logo clothing, bags, shoes, hats
Using Textiles in Instruction

• English 1102 one-shot sessions
  • Group activity
  • Worksheet with guided questions
  • Preparation for larger assignment

• Textiles used alongside related print and visual materials
  • Book materiality
  • University history
Why Teach with Textiles?

• Material culture analysis
  • Consider how the documents and textile objects work together to provide context

• Rely more heavily on senses, especially touch

• Framework for discussing collecting practices
Lessons Learned and Future Directions

• Lessons learned
  • Students less familiar with analyzing physical objects
  • Unsure how to proceed, so spent less time looking at textile materials
  • Hesitant to touch textiles

• Future directions
  • Provide more guidance about how to analyze textiles
  • Give textiles equal table space
Thank you!

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