COLORADIO
A Product of Interdisciplinary Collaboration in an iSchool Environment

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Given the collaborative and interdisciplinary nature of Library and Information Science, our project brought together a diverse set of interests and skills.

Brainstorming was a collaborative process that exemplified the different ways of thinking about trying to solve a problem, and the various resources and tools we look to for inspiration.

Christopher Nixon brought his knowledge of Arduinos and electronics to create a prototype of Coloradio; Kinyetta Nance has a business background that served to analyze information of similar products and ideas similar to that of Coloradio; Berenice Vargas is fascinated with usability; Helen Zhou’s art and design background contributed to Coloradio’s aesthetic and design.

The Champaign-Urbana Community Fab Lab provided a workspace and rapid prototyping tools which enabled us to go from concept to working prototype in a number of hours.

Four students with different expertise came together to tackle a design challenge.

How can we maximize the advantages of tangible user interfaces while minimizing the negatives?

The everyday objects we interact with tell us a colorful story. There is an emotional response when listening to music, and colors have an associated emotional measure. Creating a merged space where these two parallel mediums converge is Coloradio’s aim.

Coloradio is a speaker which detects the color of the object placed in front of it, and plays different types of music depending on the color. The user does not need any particular objects, instead they can use every object as a tangible input to start or change the music. Coloradio allows you to use objects you happen to come across your day.

VISION

HOURS 0-8
BRAINSTORMING + IDEATION

HOURS 9-20
PROTOTYPING + TESTING

HOURS 21-31
FILM + STORYTELLING

REFERENCES