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## **theLittleGreenBookshelf**

Katherine Anne Nancy Hulett

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# theLittleGreenBookshelf

by

**Katherine Anne Nancy Hulett**

An Honors Capstone

submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the Honors Diploma

to

The Honors College

of

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

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19 April 2020

Date

## Statement of Goals and Choices

*theLittleGreenBookshelf*, an example of hypertext scholarship, is the analysis of one year's worth of reading. I chose to present my Capstone in this manner because, to me, it pushed the boundaries of what I'd done before while still retaining a structured analysis of themes and elements present in the corpus of books I read.

This project has seen several iterations over the course of development. Initially, I thought an Instagram account would be a fun way to do a shell essay (see *The Shell Game* for more information). I would use pictures of the covers of each book I read, posted in the order I read them, then let the caption be a paragraph of the paper. This medium would allow for interactivity, as readers of the project could post comments, while providing for a "traditional" paper--I planned to write some form of traditional analysis. However, as my project director pointed out, this plan was very linear while my reading was not.

After reading several examples of hypertext scholarship, I began planning a Google site, chosen for the cost (zero!) and relative ease with which I could design. For a few weeks, this seemed to be the ultimate form of my Capstone... until I wanted to do a pop-up window for a pictorial form of the connections between individual pages. I did a little more research and discovered that Weebly would allow me to do pop-up windows, so, in the beginning phases of actual production of work, I switched. It was the best decision, as Weebly allowed me even more control of site layout and pages, even if it did erase any font choices. However, for all of my excitement about pop-up windows, I discovered that I would have to pay for the service, and even then it wouldn't do what I wanted it to. I decided not to pay for it and adapt my presentation.

*theLittleGreenBookshelf* is a collection of papers (most around two pages when written in MLA format). When planning, I organized ideas in four nodes: family, trauma, the book club, and gender and sexuality, all large themes throughout the corpus of books. Each node was then given several lexia, or sub-topics, that also appeared in at least several books. In my original planning, I had twenty lexia, so twenty papers to write. As I continued writing, that number, understandably, shrunk. In its final version, *theLittleGreenBookshelf* contains twelve lexia, distributed among the four nodes. Gender and sexuality ended up with two, family kept its original four, the book club also retained its original four, and trauma shrunk to two lexia. This is partially due to time constraints (themselves in part due to the larger amount of time it took me to write each lexia than I originally thought it would, and also the impacts of coronavirus) and partially due to my own ability to write intelligently and with relative authority on the topics of gender, sexuality, and trauma.

When it came time to assemble all of *theLittleGreenBookshelf*'s pieces, I was excited to blend the traditional writing portions with alternate components. "Introduction," the first page visitors see, includes examples of distant reading in the form of pie charts and bar graphs, documenting different "stats" for the corpus of books. It also features my adaptation of the pop-up window, showing the project's nervous system, in the form of a modified network graph. Each page contains a header picture and at least one other picture in addition to the written analysis, pulling part of my life into the project as it matched the theme of the page. The ability to inject myself into the project is something I've appreciated, as several of the topics I discuss have direct examples in my life.

It's fair to say that this project is nothing like I expected it to be. I wrote less, actually, than I thought I would (nearly thirty typed pages, excluding this document and the introduction), although it probably ended up being the right amount. I had goals of Easter eggs hidden in the pages: a link to a timeline of the books' settings, a timeline of the books' original publication dates, to name a few. While I am slightly disappointed that I couldn't fit everything in, I am pleased with the final product, especially given the fact that I am unlikely to ever engage in a project like this again in my professional or academic careers (unless some major changes occur).

Link to Website: <https://thelittlegreenbookshelf.weebly.com/>

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## Katie Hulett's Honors Capstone

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**Alanna Frost** <frosta@uah.edu>

Tue, Apr 21, 2020 at 11:39 AM

To: David Cook <dac0010@uah.edu>, William Wilkerson <wilkerw@uah.edu>, Michael McGinnis <mlm0066@uah.edu>, Katherine Anne Hulett <knh0019@uah.edu>

Dear Everyone,

Attached, please find the signed (by Katie, me, and Dr. McGinnis) version of Katie's capstone.

It is awesome and interesting and innovative.

Thanks to Dave and Dr. Wilkerson--thanks for all the work you do to facilitate such smart work.

Cheers,  
Alanna

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**Hulett Capstone submission [MLM signed].pdf**

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