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Appendix B: U.S.-Mexico Border Electronic Literacy Autobiography

Interviewer:
Time, Date & City:
Setting:

U.S.-Mexico Border Electronic Literacy Autobiography

The purpose of this study is to identify how people from the U.S.-Mexico border, specifically Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas, have learned to be literate—to read and compose—in print and online. I am focusing on people who now speak and write English, even though they most likely learned English after learning to read and write in Spanish.

If you agree to participate in this project, we will ask you questions about your parents' and family's literacy practices and values and about your own literacy. We will also ask about your experiences using computers. Please take your time and answer as fully and completely as possible. You don't have to answer all the questions in one sitting. The more stories you can tell us, the more valuable we will find your answers. Several sections ask you to talk about family members' experiences; if you want and they are willing you can have them complete these sections. If they do any part of the survey, please have them sign the permission form and make it known which sections they complete.

The results of this study will be used to improve literacy instruction in the United States—especially for Spanish speaking students, and to understand, historically, how electronic literacy developed along the U.S.-Mexico border during the latter half of the 20th century and the first decade of the 21st century.

Please be sure before you begin to respond to these questions that you have read, signed, and mailed to me (John Scenters-Zapico, Dept. of English, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX 79968) an "Informed Consent" form. Participants under 18 years of age must have this form signed by their parents as well as signing it themselves.

Demographic Information

Name:

Current Occupation:

Previous Occupations (if applicable):

Intended Occupation (if applicable):

Academic Major (if applicable):

Your place and **date of birth**:

Where did you live?

> Growing up:
> Now:

Nationality:

Race:

Ethnic Heritage:

Religion/denomination (optional):

Immediate family members and ages:

* How would you describe your family economic circumstances when you were growing up? (circle one choice and explain)

  we had very little money,

  we were comfortable,

  we were well off,

  we were extremely well off

Your Early Personal Memories:

* Can you describe the house you lived in? Was it in a town or in the country? What did it look like?

* Can you tell stories about what you did around the house, at home?

* Did you have any hobbies when you were growing up? When you were a teenager?

- Who were your heroes when you were growing up (e.g., from movies, books, comics, politicians)?

- Who did you want to be like when you were a child? Why? Can you tell us any stories about this?

- Who did you want to be like when you were a teenager? Why? Can you tell us any stories about this?

Early Exposure to Literacy

About You and Writing:
- Can you tell us the story of how/when/why you learned to read and write in Spanish? If you remember the story please share it with us.

- Can you tell us the story of how/when/why you learned to read and write in English? If you remember the story please share it with us.

- Did you read at home? If so, what? (newspapers, magazines, Bible, Koran, pamphlets). Please describe or list the names/types of materials.

- Did you write at home? (letters, stories, school work) If so, what?

- Can you remember anything that your mother/father/grandparents said about reading?
  - About writing?
  - About education?

About Your Mom and Dad/Guardian and Writing:

- Can you tell us the story of how/when/why your mom and dad/guardian learned to read and write in Spanish? English? If you know each person's story please discuss both.

- Did your mother and father read at home? If so, what? (newspapers, magazines, Bible, Koran, pamphlets). Please describe or list the names/types of materials.

- Did your father or mother/grandmother write on a regular basis? If so, what? (letters, shopping lists, religious documents, community or organizational material).

About Your Grandparents and Writing:

• Can you tell us the story of how/when/why your grandmother(s) and grandfather(s) learned to read and write in Spanish? English?   If you know each person's story please discuss both.

• Did your grandmother(s) and grandfather(s) read at home? If so, what? (newspapers, magazines, Bible, Koran, pamphlets). Please describe or list the names/types of materials.

About Your Aunts and Uncles and Writing:

• Can you tell us the story of how/when/why your aunts and uncles learned to read and write in Spanish? English?   If you know each person's story please discuss both.

• Did your aunts and uncles read at home? If so, what? (newspapers, magazines, Bible, Koran, pamphlets). Please describe or list the names/types of materials.

Your School Memories:

• Can you tell what your elementary school was like?

Where was it located?	What did it look like?	Was it segregated? Integrated? (by race, gender, religion, other?)	What subjects did you study?

What subject did you like best? Least? Why?	How did you learn to read and write? What strategies and approaches did your teachers use to help you become literate?	What kinds of thing did you learn in English class?	What kind of reading and writing and speaking activities did you do for school?

Can you remember/tell stories about any of your teachers?	Who were your favorite teachers? Why? Your least favorite? Why?	What newsworthy/political/historical events were going on in your country and in the world when you were in elementary school?

- What percentage of Spanish and English did you read in elementary school (Circle % below)?

Spanish: 10-20%   20-50%   50-80%   80-100%
English: 10-20%   20-50%   50-80%   80-100%

Did your parents read to you or have you read to them? Do you remember any authors or book titles?	Did your parents read to you or have you read to them?	Can you remember any authors or titles?	How did you get access to books? Was there a library near your house? If so, did you use it? When? How frequently?

Did you do any writing outside of school? If so, what kind? (diary, plays, stories, letters) Can you tell us any stories about this? Can you photocopy any samples for us?	What did your friends think about writing and reading at this age? Can you tell us any stories about this?	At this age, what did you want to do/be when you grew up?	

• Can you tell what your secondary school was like?

Where was it located?	What did it look like?	Was it segregated? Integrated? (by race, gender, religion, other?)	What subjects did you study?

What subject did you like best? Least? Why?	How did you learn to read and write? What strategies and approaches did your teachers use to help you become literate?	What kinds of thing did you learn in English class?	What kind of reading and writing and speaking activities did you do for school?

Can you remember/tell stories about any of your teachers?	Who were your favorite teachers? Why? Your least favorite? Why?	What newsworthy/political/historical events were going on in your country and in the world when you were in secondary school?

What did you do outside of school? Were you in any clubs? Sing in any choirs? Participate in any plays? Do any public speaking?	What was your day like after school? Can you tell us any stories about this?	Did you read any books or stories at home or outside of school? Can you tell us any stories about this?

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- List movies you watched at this age and say if they were in English or Spanish:

- What format were the movies in? (circle all that apply)

    At the theatre   video   CD   DVD

Did your parents read to you or have you read to them?	Can you remember any authors or titles?	How did you get access to books? Was there a library near your house? If so, did you use it? When? How frequently?	

Did you do any writing outside of school? If so, what kind? (diary, plays, stories, letters) Can you tell us any stories about this? Can you photocopy any samples for us?	What did your friends think about writing and reading at this age? Can you tell us any stories about this?	At this age, what did you want to do/be when you grew up?	Did you listen to songs in English? Can you name a few?

- What percentage of Spanish and English did you read in secondary school (Circle % below)?

        Spanish: 10-20%   20-50%   50-80%   80-100%
        English: 10-20%   20-50%   50-80%   80-100%

- What percentage of music did you listen to in
  Spanish: _____%
  English: _____%

Your Perceptions of Mexico and the U.S.

- Can you tell us stories about what your family thought about Mexico when you were growing up? When you were a teenager? (Please be as frank as possible.) Can you tell us any stories about this?

- Can you tell us stories about what your family thought about the United States when you were growing up? When you were a teenager? (Please be as frank as possible.) Can you tell us any stories about this?

- Can you tell us stories about what your family thought about the possibility of your going to school in the United States? (Please be as frank as possible.) Can you tell us any stories about this?

Exposure to Computer/Electronic Literacy

- Can you tell us the story about when, where, how you first came in contact with computers? (e.g., in movies, in magazine ads, in store windows, at a friend's home, personal computers, computer games, mainframe computers)

- Can you tell us the story about when, where, how you first learned to use computers? Did anyone help or encourage you? If so, who? Why?

- Can you tell us stories about how you felt about computers when you were growing up? How your friends thought about computers? How your family felt about computers?

- Is access to computers easy to obtain in Mexico or is it difficult?

  Very accessible   Somewhat Accessible   Accessible Not Accessible

- Did you, personally, (or members of your family or friends) have to struggle to get access to computers, to get access to instruction on computers, or to develop the ability to read and write in electronic environments?

        Yes   No

What factors (social, educational, political, religious, economic) made it hard or easy to develop electronic literacy (use of computers) in Mexico? Here in the U.S.? Please explain your answer:

At home in Mexico

- If your family had a computer at home when you were growing up, can you tell us the story of buying the computer? Who bought it? What kind was it? What year? Why?

- Can you tell us how much the computer cost? Can you talk about how significant/serious that investment was in terms of your family's regular budget?

- For what purposes did you use computers when you first started? As you continued to learn? Please list as many purposes as possible.

- For what purposes did your parents use computers when they first started? As they continued to learn? Please list as many purposes as possible.

- For what purposes did your siblings use computers when they first started? As they continued to learn? Please list as many purposes as possible.

- If you had a computer at home, how often and for how long did you use it? What contributed to your use of it or not? Are there any stories/incidents that you can remember about this?

- What did your mother/father/guardians think about computers?
  (If you have any stories you can share that would illustrate the value you circle, please do so)

  Very Important   Important   Not Important

- What did your grandparents think about computers? (If you have any stories you can share that would illustrate the value you circle, please do so)

  Very Important   Important   Not Important

- What did your sisters and brothers think about computers? (If you have any stories you can share that would illustrate the value you circle, please do so)

  Very Important   Important   Not Important

- What did your aunts and uncles think about computers? (If you have any stories you can share that would illustrate the value you circle, please do so)

Very Important   Important   Not Important

•   What did your cousins think about computers? (If you have any stories you can share that would illustrate the value you circle, please do so)

Very Important   Important   Not Important

•   What did your friends at home think about computers? (If you have any stories you can share that would illustrate the value you circle, please do so)

Very Important   Important   Not Important

At school in Mexico

•   Tell the story of how you first learned to use the computer at school: What was your motivation? Age? Grade? Who helped? How did they help? What kind of support did you have? In what classes did you learn to use the computer? How much access did you have to a computer per day/week/month?   How often did you actually use the computer per day/week/month? In what setting did you use computers at school?

•   For what purposes did you use computers at school? Please list as many as possible.

•   For what purposes did other students use the computer(s) at school?

•   What did your teachers/the school you went to think about computers? What values did they place on this activity? On their role? Do you have any stories you can tell us that would illustrate the value the educational system placed on computers or computer literacy?

Current exposure to computers in the United States

•   Do you (or your family) own a computer(s) now (circle one choice)?

                Yes   No

        If yes, please describe it (them):
                •   Can you tell us the story of buying the computer? Who bought it? Year? Why?

- Can you tell us how much the computer cost? Can you talk about how significant/serious that investment was in terms of (your, your parents, your family's) regular budget?

- Do you currently have access to a computer someplace other than at home? (circle all that apply)

School   Workplace   Other

- Describe how/why you use computers for each of the following purposes.

    - reading and writing email or letters

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never (10 or
more times a day)   (5-9 times a day)   (1-4 times a day)

    Can you tell us any stories about this?

    - programming

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

    Can you tell us any stories about this?

    - doing research on the web

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

    Can you tell us any stories about this?

    - downloading music from the Internet

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

    Can you tell us any stories about this?

    - designing web-sites

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

      Can you tell us any stories about this?

- playing computer games

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

      Can you tell us any stories about this?

- downloading software from the Internet

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

      Can you tell us any stories about this?

- downloading movies from the Internet

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

      Can you tell us any stories about this?

- completing multimedia/new media design

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

      Can you tell us any stories about this?

- visiting chatrooms

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

      Can you tell us any stories about this?

- contributing to listservs

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

      Can you tell us any stories about this?
- doing graphic art designs

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

       Can you tell us any stories about this?

- designing and publishing printed documents (desktop publishing/page layout)

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

Can you tell us any stories about this?

- preparing oral presentation slides (PowerPoint, etc.)

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

       Can you tell us any stories about this?

- consulting online dictionaries, thesauruses, language translation software, bibliography software

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

       Can you tell us any stories about this?

- making movies

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

       Can you tell us any stories about this?

- making greeting cards

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

       Can you tell us any stories about this?

- taking digital photographs or manipulating photographs

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

       Can you tell us any stories about this?

- other (e.g., global positioning systems, CAD-CAM, simulations, language learning, 3-D rendering, etc.—please be as specific as possible)

Frequently   Often   Occasionally   Never

Can you tell us any stories about this?

- Describe **who** taught you to use computers for each of the following purposes (e.g., parents, friends, teacher, myself, etc.), **when** they taught you (e.g., my first year in college, when I was 10 years old, in 2002), and **where** this teaching took place (e.g., dorm room, home, lab, friend's house). Can you tell us any stories about this?

  - email
    Who taught you?
    Year?
    Where?

  - programming
    Who taught you?
    Year?
    Where?

  - doing research on the web
    Who taught you?
    Year?
    Where?

  - downloading music from the Internet
    Who taught you?
    Year?
    Where?

  - designing web sites
    Who taught you?
    Year?
    Where?

  - playing computer games
    Who taught you?
    Year?
    Where?

- downloading software from the Internet
  - Who taught you?
  - Year?
  - Where?

- downloading movies from the Internet
  - Who taught you?
  - Year?
  - Where?

- creating multimedia/new media projects
  - Who taught you?
  - Year?
  - Where?

- participating in chatrooms
  - Who taught you?
  - Year?
  - Where?

- contributing to listservs
  - Who taught you?
  - Year?
  - Where?

- doing graphic art designs
  - Who taught you?
  - Year?
  - Where?

- designing and publishing printed documents
  - Who taught you?
  - Year?
  - Where?

- preparing oral presentation slides (PowerPoint, etc.)
  - Who taught you?
  - Year?
  - Where?

- consulting online dictionaries, thesauri, language translation software, bibliography software
  - Who taught you?
  - Year?

Where?

- making movies
  Who taught you?
  Year?
  Where?

- taking digital photographs or the manipulating of photographs
  Who taught you?
  Year?
  Where?

- making greeting cards
  Who taught you?
  Year?
  Where?

- other (e.g., global information systems, CAD-CAM, simulations, language learning, 3-D rendering, etc.—please be as specific as possible)
  Who taught you?
  Year?
  Where?

- Describe your current level of skill with computers (e.g., expert, competent, novice) for the following purposes.

  - e-mail

expert   competent   novice

  - programming

expert   competent   novice

  - doing research on the web

expert   competent   novice

  - downloading music from the Internet

expert   competent   novice

- designing web sites

expert   competent   novice

- playing computer games

expert   competent   novice

- downloading software from the Internet

expert   competent   novice

- downloading movies from the Internet

expert   competent   novice

- creating multimedia/new media projects

expert   competent   novice

- participating in chatrooms

expert   competent   novice

- contributing to listservs

expert   competent   novice
- doing graphic art designs

expert   competent   novice

- designing and publishing printed documents

expert   competent   novice
- preparing oral presentation slides (PowerPoint, etc.)

expert   competent   novice

- consulting online dictionaries, thesauri, language translation software, bibliography software

expert   competent   novice

- making movies

expert   competent   novice

- taking digital photographs or manipulating photographs

expert   competent   novice

- making greeting cards

expert   competent   novice

- other (e.g., global information systems, CAD-CAM, simulations, language learning, 3-D rendering, etc.—please be as specific as possible)

expert   competent   novice

- using a cell phone

expert   competent   novice

- text messaging on a cell phone

expert   competent   novice

- using a cell phone's digital camera

expert   competent   novice

Miscellaneous Questions

- Do you know how to find free copies of commercial software to download (e.g., free applications or free software for copying DVDs, CDs, music files, etc.) from the Internet?
                    Yes   No

- Do you think that people of your age do a great deal of such copying? If so, what kinds of programs and for what purposes?

- Why do you think people copy such programs rather than buy them—what is their rationale?

- Who benefits the most from commercial software? Why?

  - Who is disadvantaged? Why?
  - Who benefits from being able to get a hold of free software and share software freely? Why?

- What are some strategies for finding free software?

  - From whom or from where do people get such free software?

- What do you call these activities (e.g., "ripping," "sharing," etc.)? Can you tell us any stories about such activities that people you know have been involved in?

- What kinds of software applications/files do you download from the web? Please list as many of these as possible.

- For what kinds of things do you use such software/files?

- Please describe your friends in this country (circle all that apply; if need be please explain)

Mostly international   Mostly from the U.S.   Mostly from Mexico

- What role do you see computers having in your future?

- What role does your family see computers having in their future? Can you tell us any stories about these?

Parents?

Very Important   Important   Unimportant

Grandparents?

Very Important   Important   Unimportant

Uncles and aunts?

Very Important   Important   Unimportant

Sisters and brothers?

Very Important   Important   Unimportant

Cousins?

Very Important   Important   Unimportant

Your friends?

Very Important   Important   Unimportant

- What values do you think the national educational system in Mexico currently places on computer use? Do you have any stories you can tell us that would illustrate your thoughts on this?

- What values do you think the national educational system in the United States currently places on computer use? Do you have any stories you can tell us that would illustrate your thoughts on this?

- When you write in English, do you think in English or in Spanish?

- When you write in Spanish, do you think in English or in Spanish?

- Do you dream in English, Spanish, or both? Please explain.

- When you write (reports, letters), what software do you use?

- What browser do you use? (Netscape, Explorer, Safari, other)?

- Do you use Word for Spanish speakers?

    Yes   No

- Is there a difference between the way you write with computers and before you started writing with computers?

    Yes   No

    If yes, please explain what the differences are.

- Circle all the functions that you use when you write:

Copy-Paste   Spell Check   Grammar Check   Thesaurus

- When you write in English, do you have someone look over your writing before you send it out?

        Always   Sometimes   Never

- When you write in Spanish, do you have someone look over your writing before you send it out?

  Always   Sometimes   Never

- English: What types of comments do your teachers make on your written assignments?

- Spanish: What types of comments do your teachers make on your written assignments?

- When you write on the computer in Spanish, do you use the accent marks such as í (e.g., día) and ñ (e.g., pestaña)?

  Yes   No

- What is your experience inserting special characters in Spanish using a computer?