Gail's Literacy Artifacts

Kris: I'm wondering what kinds of things you brought with you that tie into your memories of literacy?

Gail: Well ah…we can't stop that…ah

Kris: Well, why don't we just get up and grab them?

Gail: All right. I'll do that.

Kris: It's an interview we can edit…we can cut. (laughs)

Kris: It occurred to me that that would be a good thing to do..

Gail: Yeah.

Kris: …To tie into the artifacts… you can even hold them up… (demonstrates)…like look

Gail: Well…I brought artifacts mostly that I thought would relate to digital literacy.

Kris: Oh okay.

Gail: Primarily because I don't have very many…I don't have very many artifacts that would relate to um, you know my um other literacies you know it's…been a long time.

Kris: Well, and that's interesting and this might be where we're actually sort-of doing a double thing here that I thought you know… I have no evidence of digital literacies really..um…in terms of my own history.

Gail: Yeah…

Kris: So it makes complete sense but I didn't mean to put you on the spot.

Gail: No, no you're not putting me on the spot at all actually…this is the thing that I found and it won't mean anything to anybody looking at it except for the fact that (holds paper up)… it's an evaluation of a 1983 computer conference held in um ah up at the University of Minnesota and I was evaluating Lilly Bridwell at that time and ah Lilly Bridwell-Bowles and Donald Ross's conference but more …and you'll see…I don't know if you can see it very well but it's all done in dot matrix…

Kris: (laughs)

Gail: All right, but what I found …this is where Cindy and I actually met one another and I met Dickie at that …that time to… (points to the camera)…you were up there... And so this is sort-of where we began our collaboration although she likes to point out that I was a graduate student when I did this evaluation. ..And she read it, it says "Computers and Writing Research and Applications"…that was the name of the conference even that far back and it says an evaluation of the conference prepared by Gail Heath Hawisher.

Kris: (laughs)

Gail: So that's one artifact (picks up pictures) Um I don't know…I have an artifact of course (holds up picture of a little girl) as a child.

Kris: Ooooooohh.

Gail: And then we're going to see that Kris has an artifact that's really cool with a sled and mine is on a bike…(holds up another picture)…okay so there's my technology…ah I don't know as a four-year-old (looks at picture) I don't even know when this was…was written.

Kris: And you know I think that given our generations we have to define literacy very broadly that there are technologies of gender, of transportation…um and emerging… you know even music technologies because you know I had a picture of myself sitting at a toy organ my parents bought me and I loved that organ and so..

Gail: Ah yeah!

Kris: So I think it is natural for us to define it more broadly than say people born in the late seventies or early eighties.