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We acknowledge in Milwaukee that we are on traditional Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk and Menominee homeland along the southwest shores of Michigami, North America’s largest system of freshwater lakes, where the Milwaukee, Menominee and Kinnickinnic rivers meet and the people of Wisconsin’s sovereign Anishinaabe, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Oneida and Mohican nations remain present.

QWERTY Curriculum: Introduction

Writing Local Technologies: Toward a Community-Engaged Composition Curriculum

Anushmita Mohanty, Rachel La Due, Ryan Vojtisek, and Camilla Lee are students of a Public Humanities class and 102 instructors. This meant that when they began thinking about a public-facing project regarding Milwaukee’s famous invention, the QWERTY keyboard, they thought of a 102 curriculum. After all, the 102 classes at UWM align Milwaukee with writing for a public of about 700 students!

This course is therefore meant to build on essays, journals, posters, and other rhetorical objects pertaining to the QWERTY typewriter, invented by Christopher Latham Sholes in Milwaukee. It also connects the typewriter to larger themes, such as writing, local technologies, gender and labour, indigenous rhetorics, race, and global QWERTY. These connections were helped by the public-facing materials created by the rest of our Public Humanities class.

This course packet consists of readings and pedagogical activities related to threshold 102 concepts, based on our larger theme of QWERTY, its connections, and implications. We hope that it will be useful for 102 instructors. We have provided several small units, which can be customized and plugged into existing courses. We also provide a longer, extensive reading list on the theme of QWERTY. We eventually hope to expand this into a larger 102 curriculum, covering all the 102 concepts. To make this work more generative, we also plan to hold in-person and virtual workshops to discuss adapting this course with interested instructors.