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What Went Wrong: Reflections on a Teaching with Technology Failure

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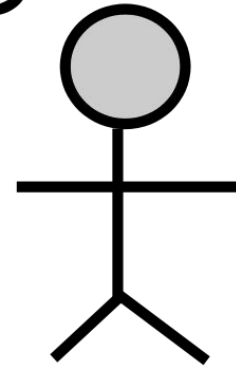
What Went Wrong: Reflections on a Teaching with Technology Failure

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Background:

- Art History courses at RIC require students to complete a significant amount of research.
- Each semester, I provide between 20-26 hours of ILI for Art History.
- There are several assignments that ask students to use published bibliographies to track down sources on specific artists and artworks.
- I spend time in class teaching students how to “read” a bibliography. It’s frustrating because some students already know from previous Art History courses while others need more time to decipher citations.
- To solve the problem, I created a web-based tutorial for ART 232. I planned to roll it out in class. If things went smoothly, in the future I would flip the class by sharing the tutorial before meeting with ART 232 and other Art History courses.

The tutorial:



How it was designed to function:



Making sense of bibliographies

Oxford art online (page 1 of 7)

Menu

Oxford Art Online articles present basic biographical information about artists, as well as references to additional sources. Scroll through the article.

Under which headings do you find additional sources? *(required)*

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Article contents

- Writings
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Article Images

Prophet, Nancy Elizabeth

(b Warwick, RI, March 19, 1890; d Providence, RI, Dec 1960).

Theresa Leininger-Miller

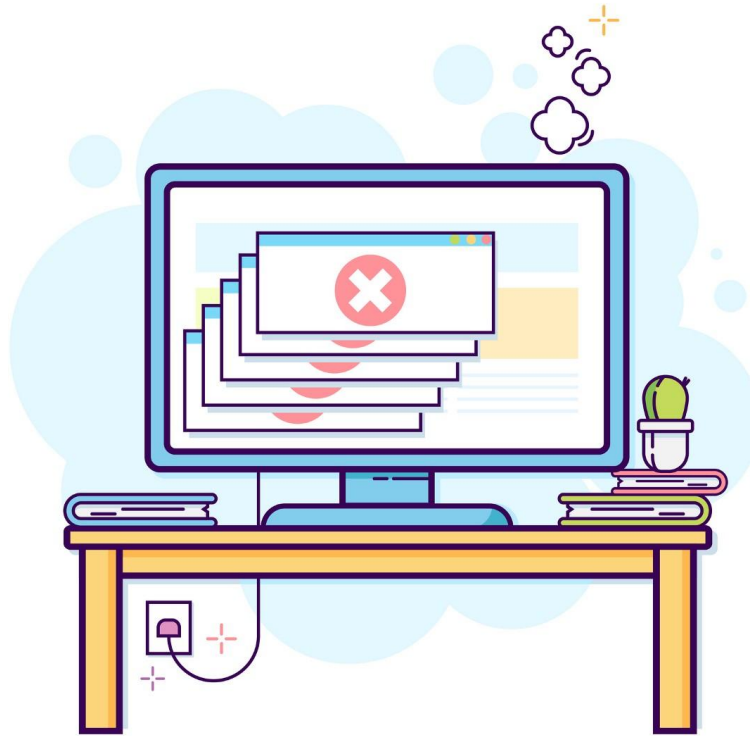
<https://doi.org/10.1093/gao/9781884446054.article.T2021937>

Published online: 20 October 2006 updated bibliography, 22 September 2014

African American sculptor and teacher, active also in France. Prophet studied drawing and painting at the Rhode Island College School of Design, Providence, where she graduated in 1918. She went on to make portraits in Providence and then moved to Paris in 1922 looking for more opportunities and to escape a difficult marriage. There she studied with Victor Segoffin at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, completing at least two busts in 1923, one of which was included in the Salon d'Automne the following year. In 1924 Prophet made and sold batik, and sculpted her first lifesize statue, *Volonté*, which she subsequently smashed because she found it mediocre.

Lonely, frustrated, and nearly penniless, Prophet moved to a tiny atelier in Montparnasse in June 1926, where she lived for the next seven years. Her first work there was *Poverty* (or *Prayer*, 1926), a life-size plaster female nude in a contrapposto pose, with a snake curling about her ankles. Her other untitled androgynous figures and

How it actually functioned for 80% of the class:



What happened?

-said Hillary Clinton and me



Lessons Learned:

- If possible, test face-to-face before flipping.
- Accept that not all problems can be anticipated.
- Have a solid back-up plan. Lecturing will probably do the trick.
- Avoid going overboard on technology. Was it really necessary to nest a library database inside of a Springshare tutorial, risking multiple problems (e.g database goes down, student's password doesn't work, etc.)? Would screenshots of the database have sufficed?
- Wait at least one hour before sending email to your colleagues in Technical Services. Better yet, talk to them in person.
- It's okay to wait a while before trying again.