



Design for a Narrative Inheritance: Designing Memory Technologies for Intergenerational Family Memory

Research Question

How can we design technologies to support intergenerational memory, shared through family stories?

Thesis

Design must center on supporting the family values and practices enacted through family storytelling.

Mixed Methods Research Approach

Ethnographic Inquiry

Framing remembering as interwoven practices and artifacts through which family memory is socially constructed

Research-through-Design

Using value-sensitive and interaction-driven design to focus on the values and practices mediated through design

Ethnographic Inquiry

Key Findings:

- 1) Family stories are co-constructed from fragmented personal and inherited memories
- 2) Stories are shared conditionally, dependent on the agenda and anticipated needs
- 3) Each generation must negotiate control of how a story is told

Family Memory Practices

- Discover, Decipher, Reconstruct
- Reconcile conflict and uncertainty
- Signal value through organization
- Negotiate narrative authority

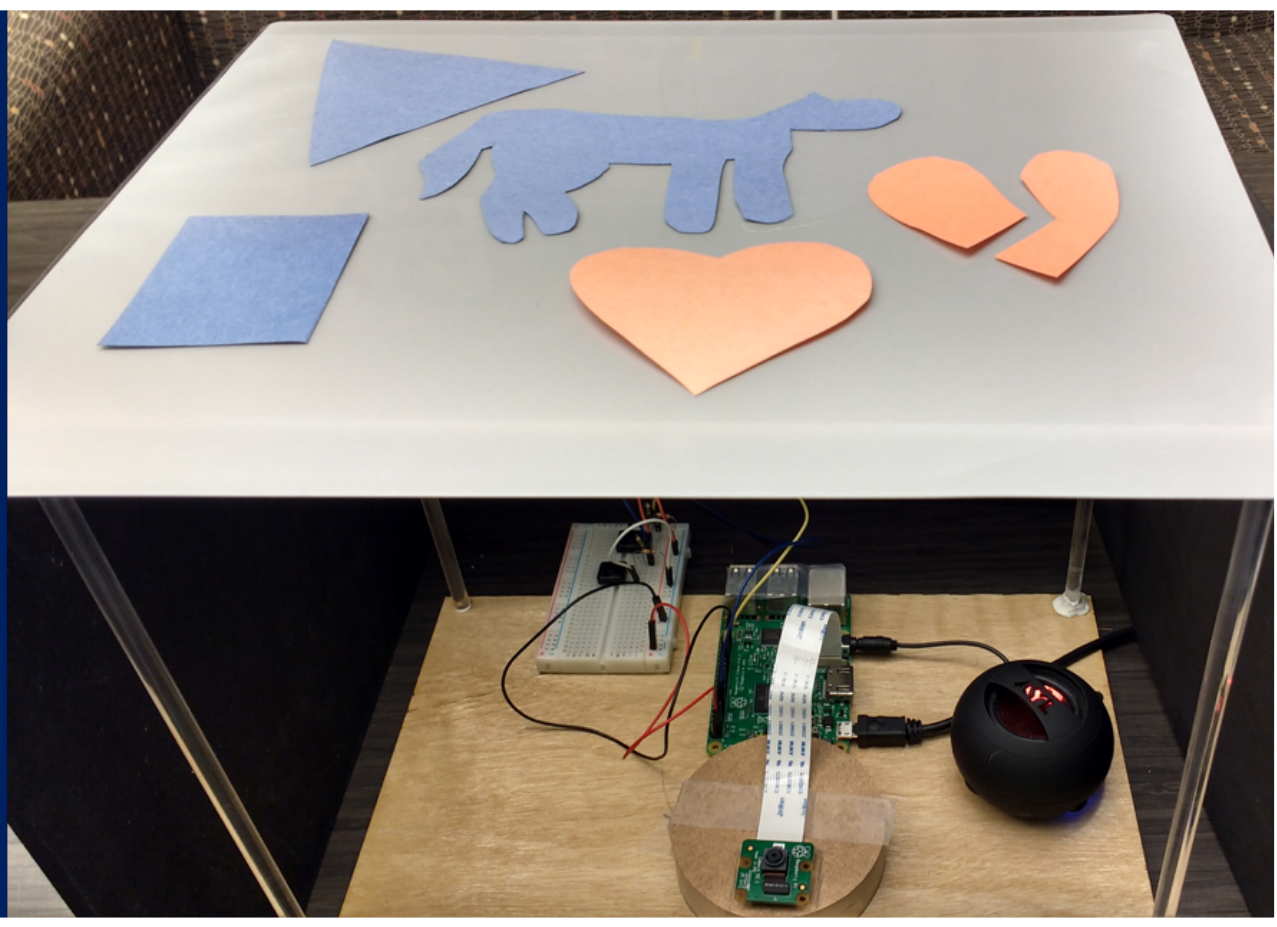
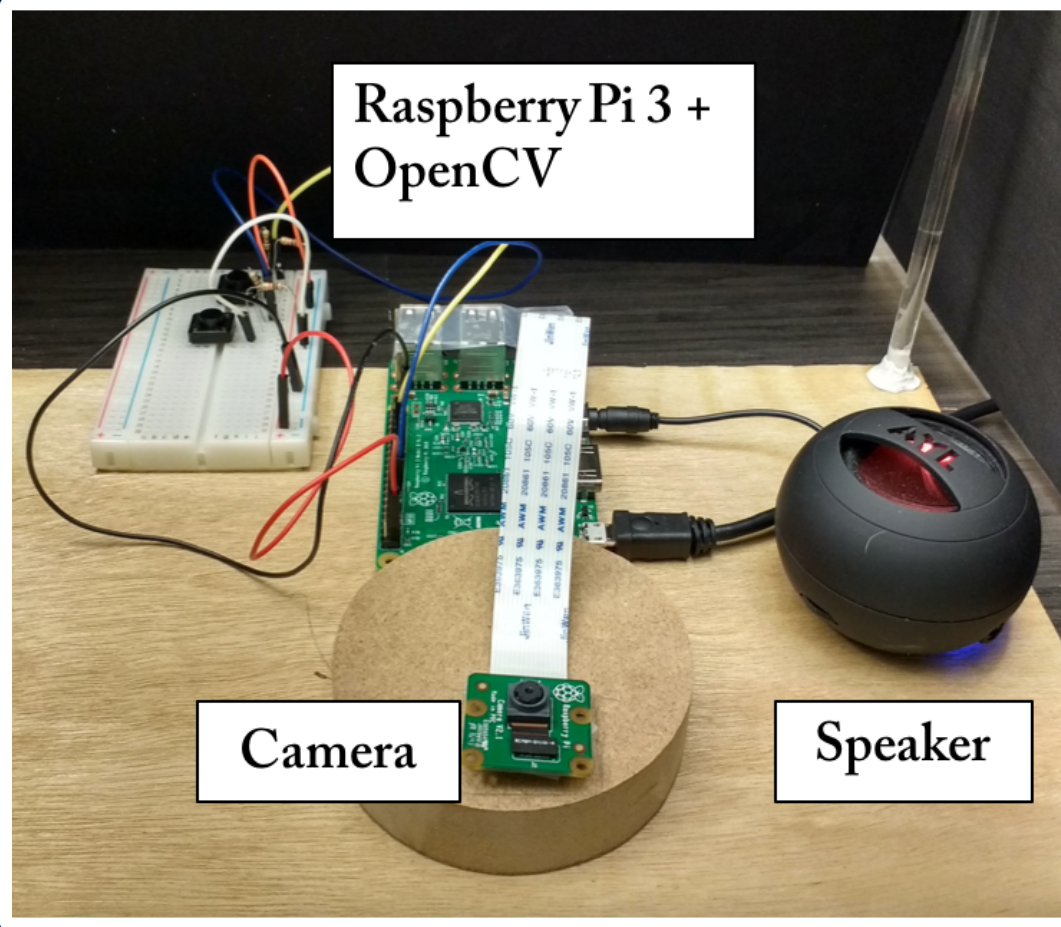
Family Memory Values

- Narrative Authority (control)
- Narrative Entitlement (expectation)
- Narrative Courtesy (respect)

Design Inquiry



Design Metaphor: Piecing Together a Mosaic



"Scatter" Prototype Implementation:
Create an interactive mosaic for organizing and directing playback of recorded stories, governed by rules and spatial arrangement

JASMINE JONES

Advisor: Prof. Mark S. Ackerman

With support from the Social Worlds Research Group, DoHIT Studio, Rackham Graduate Fellowship, & NSF GRF (DGE 1256260)

MISC

Michigan Interactive & Social Computing