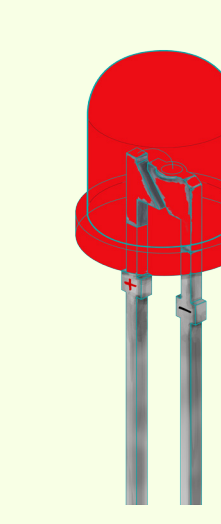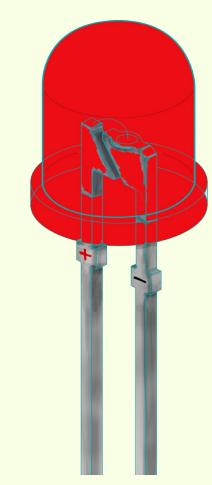# Kits for Cultural History
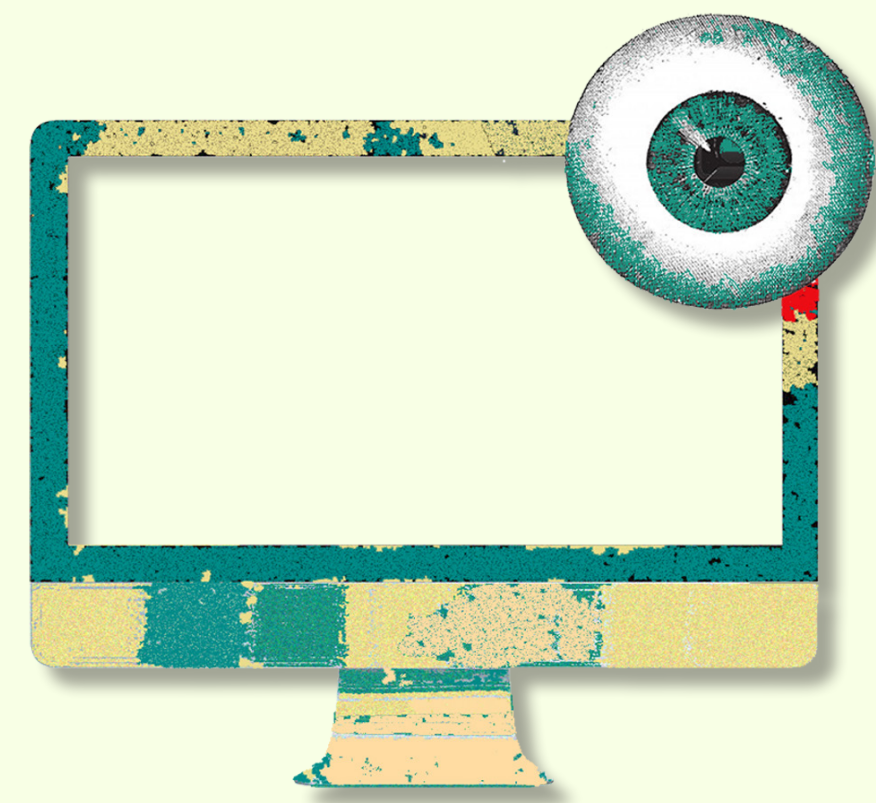
Research Goal

Build historical research and foster technology-based learning through tacit engagements with media and mechanisms of the past.

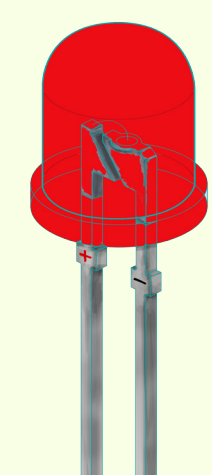## Motivations

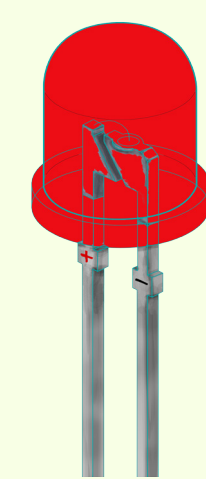Screen Essentialism   Tacit Knowledge   Media Archaeology

Primary Insight

Physical computing and desktop fabrication can facilitate experimental approaches to history and material culture, with an emphasis on knowing by doing.

e.g. Phonograph Kit

The Audible Past
Jonathan Sterne

Their Words

"the impulse . . . is to go beyond purely documentary states of objects" - Kari Kraus, *Digital Humanities Quarterly*
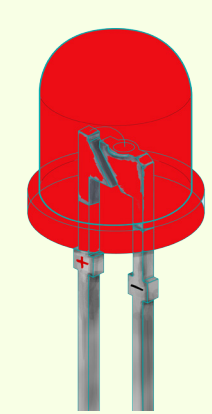
"intimacy with industrial procedure and fabrication" - Matthew Kirschenbaum, *Mechanisms*

"culture needs to be taken seriously in the practice of technologial innovation" - Anne Balsamo, *Designing Culture*

"different versions and styles of media history do make a difference" - Lisa Gitelman, *Always Already New*
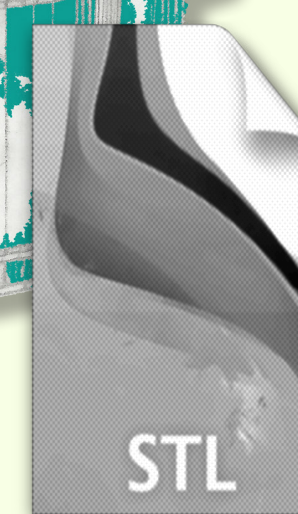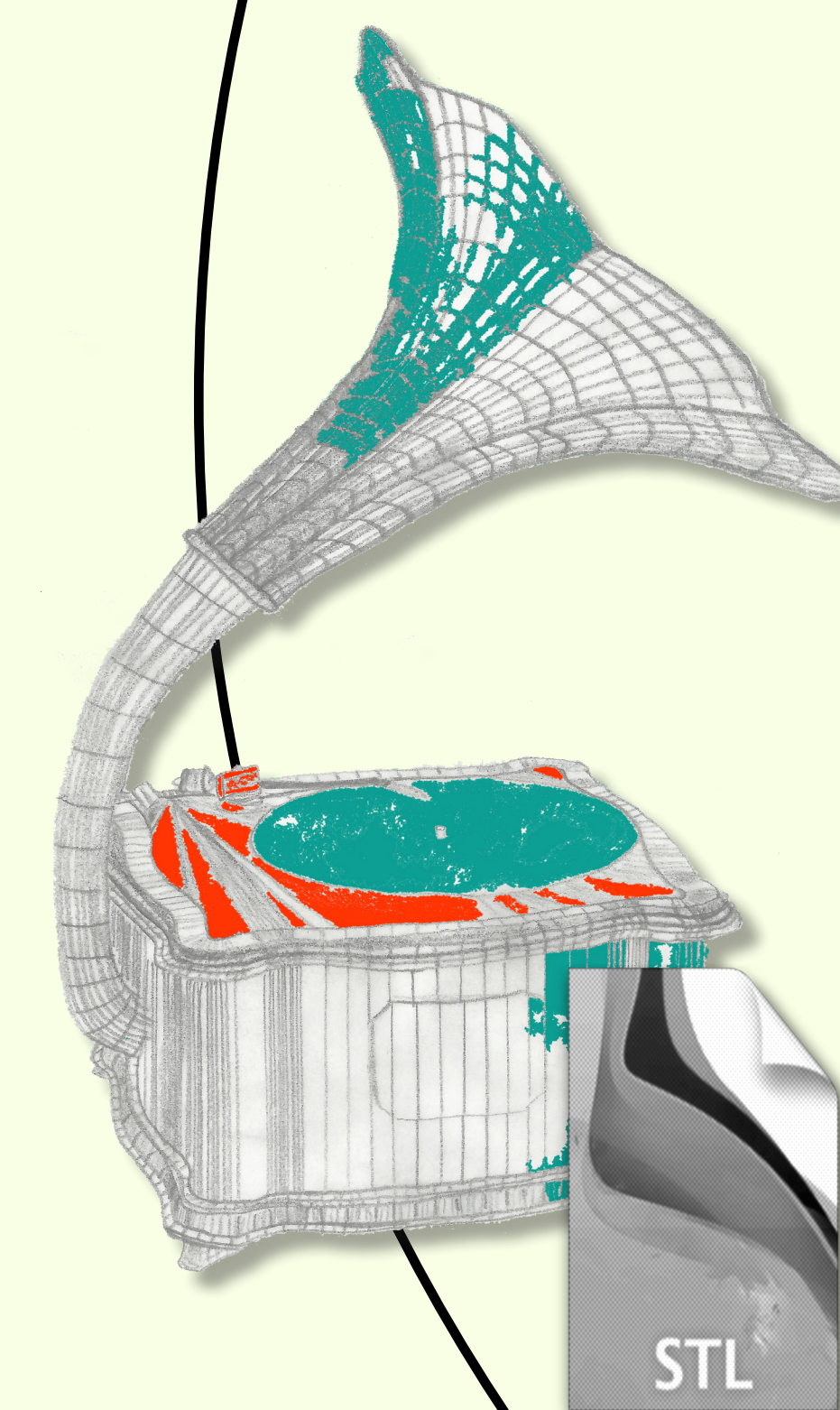
Trajectories

Prototype at least two functioning kits (Year 1)
Build partnerships with GLAM institutions (Years 2-4)
Circulate kits for testing by practitioners (Years 2-4)
Articulate scholarly recommendations for humanities
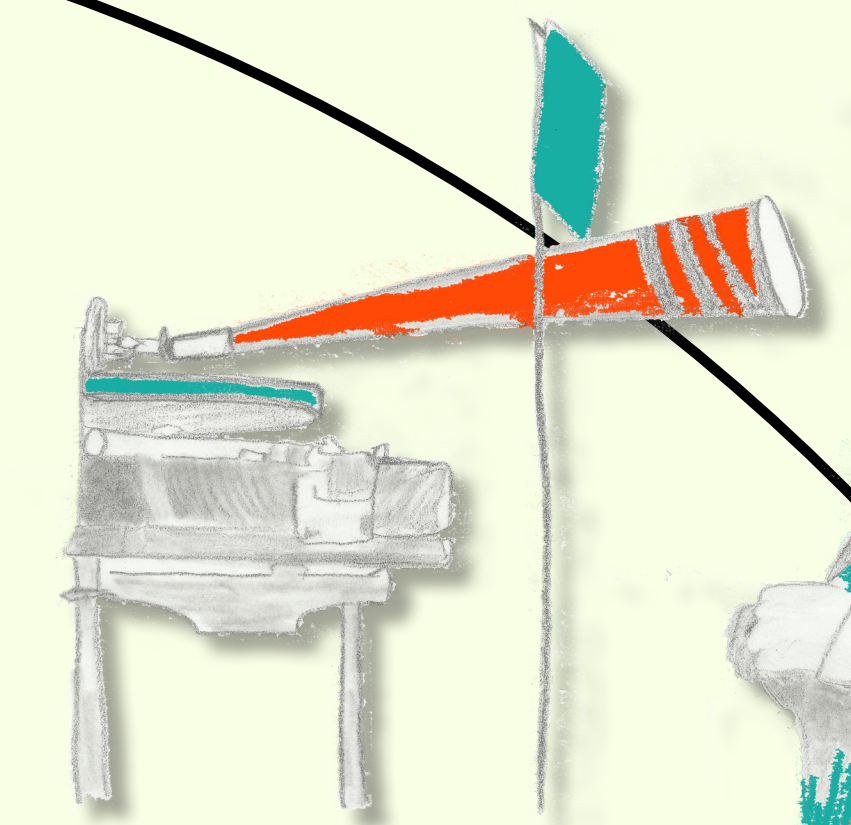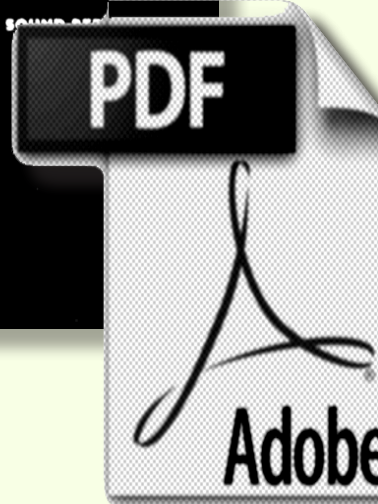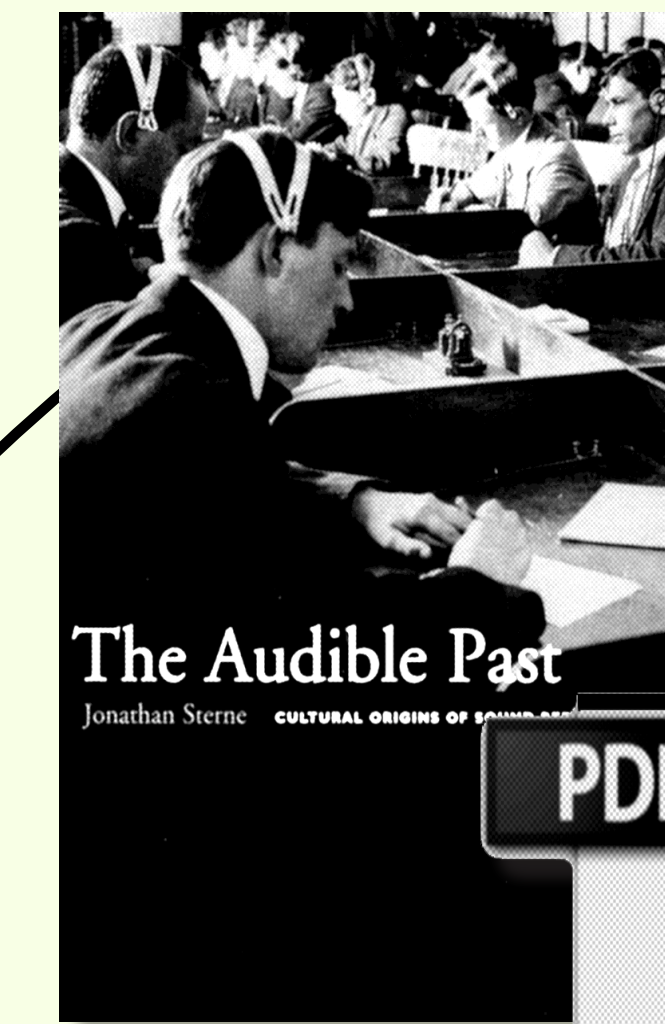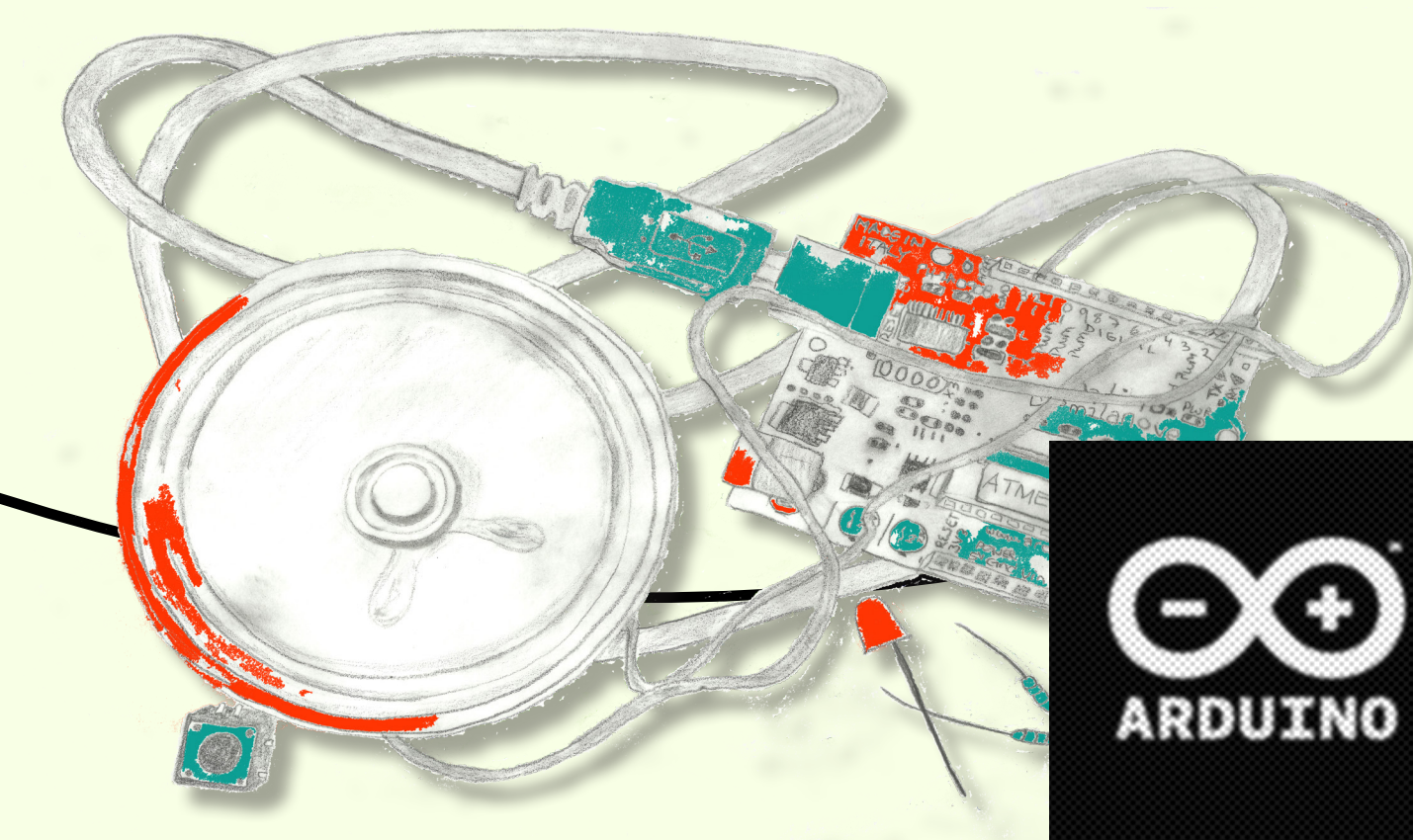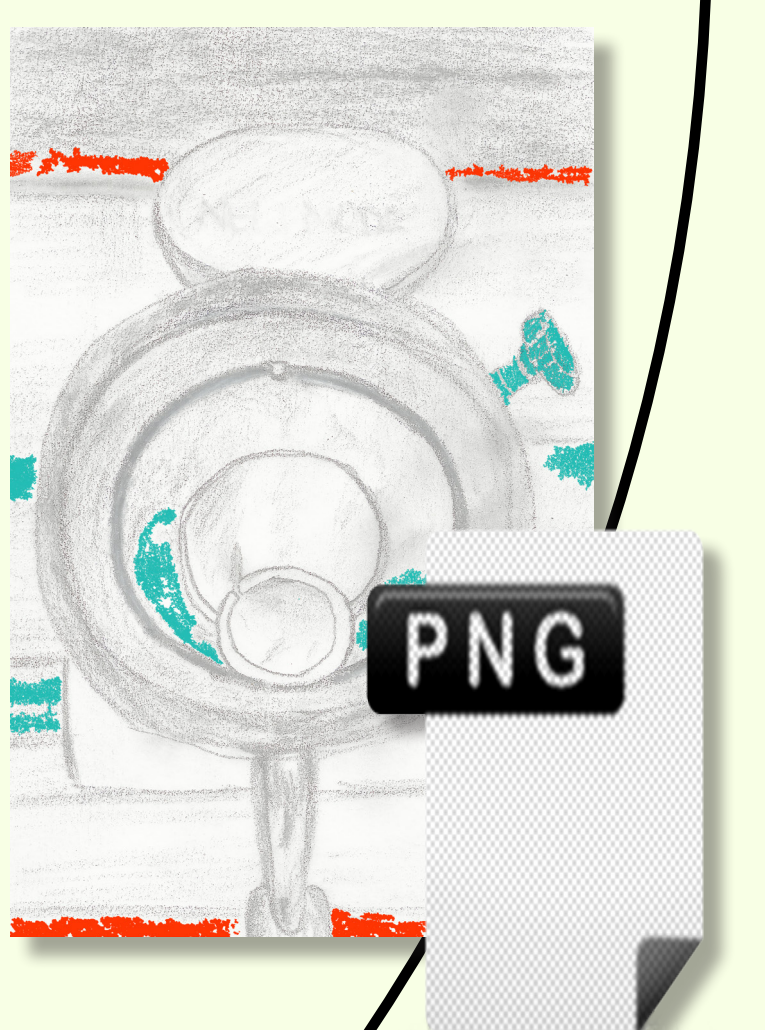   physical computing and desktop fabrication (Years 3-4)
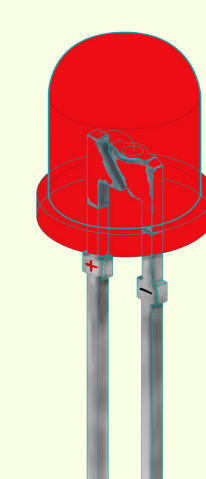
Researchers

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Lab for Humanistic Fabrication

M LAB