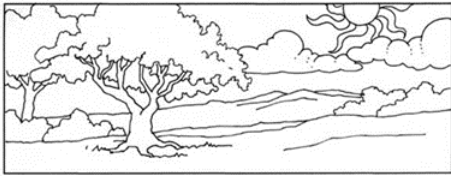


## Abbreviated Instructors Notes: Labor Day 9/6/2021



### Where We Are

By this time, you've found your way around our blackboard site. You've also done some thinking about individual collecting and considered the rules, purposes, and principles that you apply when creating a personal collection.

### Last Week's Discussion Board and office ours

This point was the focus of last week's Discussion Board topic, and everybody's posts provide some good food for thought. In terms of the items collected, we see condition mentioned more than once, but the nature of the condition varies. Some people like their objects used, loved, and worn. Others like them in good shape. Sentiment is also mentioned, suggesting the importance of personal experience. Cost is often a factor, and size considerations also come up in terms of storage issues.

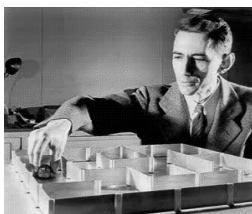


### Community Analysis: Turning Our Attention to Collecting for Others.

Where do we go next? Thinking about indirect collecting or collecting that is done for another or others, rather than privately for oneself. How do we do this? By getting to know these others. Models like the one below suggest some first steps.

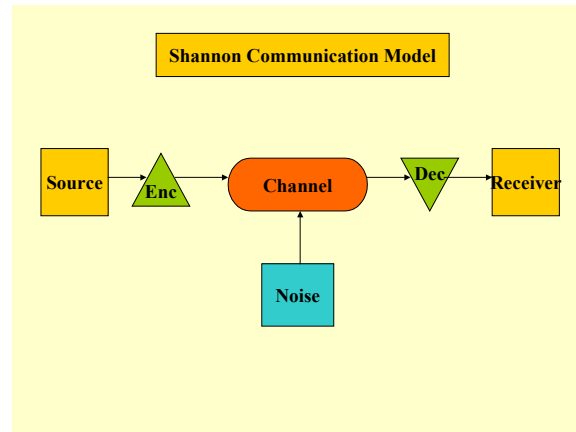
### Evans' Environmental Factors Model

To use this model, we need to look a bit at its history – which starts with a man named Claude Shannon, who is often referred to as the father of communication theory, based on his,

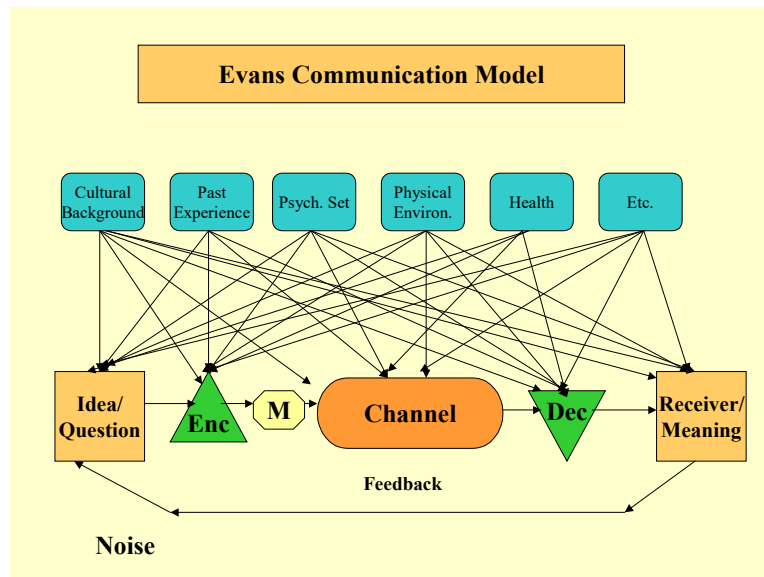


teaching at MIT and his work at Bell Telephone Laboratories in 1941, where he became a member of a group of scientists charged with the tasks of developing more efficient information transmitting methods and improving the reliability of long-distance telephone and telegraph lines.

The model he developed appears below.



The Evans' Collection Model expands Shannon's model by adding examples of the many contextual factors that can affect the efficiency of message transmission and the passage of an information item from the hands and mind of the writer or designer to the hands and **mind of the reader or viewer**.



What happens when we look at this model as indirect collectors? It gets us thinking about the factors in others' lives that are likely to influence the usefulness of a book or other electronic product and the things we need to know about the people (who may be unlike us) for whom we are collecting.

Evans also suggests that turbulence can be an important factor and suggests elsewhere that library environments can be classified in terms of risk and turbulence using a model developed by two social scientists – F. Emery and E. L. Trist . Interestingly, it is at this point that we encounter one of the biggest differences between personal and public collection. If we are smart, we are aware of the factors (including risks) in our lives that govern our own collecting behavior. We know these because we experience them daily. We don't automatically know where the boundaries lie for other people, what they need, what they like, and what they have no desire for. To know these things, we need to study them individually and collectively. If we don't, we create the worst kinds of library collections – ones that assume that we are collecting for an army of us and amount to echo chambers.

The hard part of course is getting things right, and I'd like you to spend time over the next two weeks thinking about the many community and organizational factors that need to be considered when designing a collection for others. Meanwhile, since it's always good to look at new topics from multiple perspectives, let's begin by looking at McCleer's *Public Library Quarterly* 32:263–274, 2013 article [Knowing Communities: A Review of Community Assessment](#) (available in electronic format from Thomas Cooper Library). You will also find an article with these notes that provides an example of collecting in a turbulent environment. And take a look at an PW article that might surprise you: [Print Book Sales Soar in Year's First Half](#) ([publishersweekly.com](#)).

### **This Week's music**

With some digging and remembering what Labor Day stands for, we find an easy example of the complexities we've been discussing and some contradictions: the Boston Brahmins who supported the first public libraries and were also mill owners. When we think of those mills, we also find some great music. One of my very favorites is Paul Robeson's Joe Hill [Paul Robeson, "Joe Hill" - YouTube](#). Another famous song, Bread and Roses [bread and roses - YouTube](#) celebrates the famous Lawrence, MA, textile workers strike. For more on the strike, see [The Strike That Shook America - HISTORY](#). On a lighter and more modern note, one of my favorite working man songs is Van Morrison's Cleaning Windows [Cleaning Windows - YouTube](#). Country music, of course, is full of examples. Do Johnny Paycheck and Johnny cash come to mind?

