

DSpace Leadership Breakouts on DSpace Governance

May 15, 2024

Facilitated by the DSpace Governance Working Group

Breakout Room One

Host and Note Taker: Pascal Becker

Prompts

- What pain points have you encountered before or during your service on DSpace Leadership?
 - Areas to consider, but not limited to:
 - Election processes and procedures
 - Timing of election cycles
 - Officer transitions
 - Roles of governance groups, members, and officers
 - Communications and reporting responsibilities
 - Governance orientation and onboarding
 - DSpace Governance documentation
- What do you think works well regarding DSpace Governance?
- If you could improve one thing regarding DSpace Governance, what would that be?

Room One Notes

How can representatives connect to the members of their level?

How is the timeplan for votes for Leadership and following votes once leadership is seated, for steering and chair?

Is one year term the right amount or do we need continuity by having two years terms? -> We try to get continuity by the Steering Group. The concept of being three years in Steering but only one in Leadership is confusing at first.

We need better on-boarding for new Leadership Group meetings. We need better documentation of the way the DSpace Governance work, of the terms, the voting processes and so on.

Breakout Room Two

Host and Note Taker: Scott Hanrath

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Room Two Notes

Pain Points

- Dedicated members from community
 - wide ranging community – need participation from orgs/people who are not capital M members
 - include and listen – recruit and keep involved
 - need to make sure that people newer to the community can follow discussions (terminology and history)
 - how do we manage time zones for meetings of a global community
 - We should be talking to these groups to get their feedback about governance participation
- Clarity around elections for membership levels that require elections (vs automatic seats)
 - past communications about when elections are/aren't needed haven't always been sufficient or clear
 - hasn't helped that some years don't require elections
 - transparency around the process would be appreciated
- SCOSS pledges and member terms?

- up to date website listings could help
- also consider how consortiums vs individual institutions are listed

What works well?

Improvements

- better descriptions for what's expected for each governance group
- Clarity around when term start/stop, relationship to fiscal years
- Advisory groups that go beyond governance – regular feedback mechanisms, town halls, etc.

Breakout Room Three

Host and Note Taker: Kristi Park

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Room Three Notes

Officer transitions:

- Transition of officers and leaders -- no overlap; we lose a month every year to find a new chair.

- We need to have Leadership set for some period of time before electing a new chair. Chair and Leadership terms need to be staggered.

Communications and reporting responsibilities

- Developer group mostly communicating via Leadership/Steering not DCAT. Having a community coordinator makes a big difference here.
- Challenges of communication with a diverse audience in terms of knowledge-level/decision-making authority.

Governance orientation and onboarding

- Have not had orientation, but is pretty self-explanatory
- Maybe could be an optional session, aimed at folks who are relatively new to DSpace
- Place of DSpace of research/open-source
- Folks may be new to the whole idea of “governance” - how it works
- Could ask this back to new leaders - Is this what you expected? Did you feel like you could contribute. An entrance & exit interview.
- End-of-year survey?

Scheduling is challenging. Quarterly meetings mean if you miss one, you miss a lot.

What do you think works well regarding DSpace Governance?

- diverse regional representation + Lyrasis
- updates are good