

Thursday, March 12, 2015

4:00-5:00PM

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[LINK TO CLIR CONNECT DISCUSSION THREAD](#)

Sustainability of Collaborations

DESCRIPTION:

Collaborations are notoriously difficult to initiate and even harder to sustain.

What are the more subtle long-term benefits to collaborations that go beyond meeting formal project goals and sustaining formal institutional collaborations?

How does participation in collaborative projects teach us to be better or more desirable collaborators, so that we as professionals are more likely to incorporate collaborative components into our work on a routine basis?

How does routinizing collaboration enhance our understanding of our work and improve our work products?

What team and project management techniques contribute to the success and sustainability of projects that can then continue across shared projects?

AGENDA

Introductions and introductory remarks

Key issues and opportunities in institutional and professional collaboration

Collaborative opportunities and models in archives and special collections

Discussion questions

Outcomes, learning, next steps

Making a point to reach out to program officers and colleagues to find other groups that are like you. Collaborating at the beginning to not duplicate work. --- a literature search for people

Pulling group together to put together standards before the grant starts.

- + Practical effort to actually bring the standard to a completion -- sometimes you think you have something concrete but then it changes
- + Less of an issue when there are very few records -- began macro
- + Inheriting proto decisions -- for the most part people stuck with standards, but there were some outliers : flexibility is a good thing
- + Building buy-in by making standard together

As important as technology to communicate, there is no substitute for getting together

How to get compliance? Negotiating cross institutions

For large groups, steering committee -- having more people coordinating means that people will bring their concerns to a group through multiple avenues -- pile sharing

Cost-sharing? Does it keep people engaged? Institutional commitment leads staff to know that it matters. If it is just volunteering, then things eventually fall apart.

People helped in lots of different ways -- some groups couldn't help with processing; sometimes having help interfered with workflow.

Example: PACSL Existing as an organization and having regular meeting keeps it going.

Intentional dependencies

Multiple organizations -- small scale and worked way up

Getting to see how other groups do things -- some of it works, some doesn't, but you learn along the way. The idea that doing things differently isn't conflict.

Does commonality of tech make for a better collaboration?

Goal of shared purpose v. goal of shared delivery -- both can work

Being a smaller piece of larger collaborations -- getting to hubs of DPLA, etc.

Collating through a Wiki or through another institutions -- example

Washington DC consortium (WRLC): have storage and expertise that can be shared out, helps make it so a single institution doesn't have to sustain something

(other options: ArchiveGrid)

Structures of collaboration -- how they change, especially when people move institutions: building in controls for the project as it shifts, sustainability of collaboration embedded with sustainability of materials

How to reach out to organizations -- building on existing collaborations

Defining success realistically

If a group of institutions is collaborating on a project, then they probably already have something in common that they can last. Geographic concentration can also help -- to get together in person. Also, collaborations can be subsetting. Recognizing resources, methods, etc. -- to be a part or not a part.

Leadership and Collaboration -- which might be interinstitutional and shifting centers.

Capacity building: one of the aspects is to grow the skills of the staff and institution benefits because developed new skill set. Grant employees then create also professional connections -- and a better profession.

