Session A1 Collaboration

Description:

Facilitator: Shawn Duncan

Notetaker: Bryn Kanar

Attendees:
- Matt Critchlow, Rosalie Lack, Stephen Abrams, Patricia Cruse, Jess Waggoner, Matthew McKinley, Shu Liu, John Kratz, Dan Szilagyi, Sherri Berger, Brian Riley, Eric Milenkiewicz, Zed Lopez, Bryn Kanar, Shawn Duncan (ashawn@ucsc.edu), Sean McGilvray, Ned Henry, Tom Brittnacher

Action Items (optional):
[ ] Action Item 1 - Rosalie will set up a CKG related to Collaboration, IT Principles, Best Practices, Sustainability.

Notes:

Shawn:
Organization as ecosystem.
Question: What is the system-wide body for managing common platforms? Review boards?

Dan:
Internal Review board. UCI.

Rosalie:
No one has the role of oversight for UC Libraries.

Shawn:
A lot of creativity but perhaps not enough coordination.

Trish:
CDL plays part of that role, bringing together best practices. But Campuses want to maintain autonomy. Are there areas where it makes more sense to collaborate and put that coordination in place.

Eric:
Common Knowledge Group might play that role. A communication role.

Sherri:
LTAG might play part of that role.

Matthew:
A survey to determine what the needs are at the different campuses.

Shawn:
Sustainability. As grant funding comes in, factor in sustainability.

Some campuses have IT depts that report to the library; others report to an IT organization.

Shu:
At your library, is IT normally consulted at the beginning of grant application processes or more of an after thought?

Sean:
UCR Library often makes decisions without involving the IT dept. This can cause problems. Things can be difficult to maintain. It's inefficient. Greater collaboration internally as well as externally is important.

Shawn:
Starting with solution as opposed to starting with business needs, can also cause problems. More rigor and common practices can help with this.

Matthew
Possible solution: A WIKI where people can post things that worked or didn't work so we can learn from each others experiences. Keep it short to encourage buy-in (descriptive paragraph, optional links, lessons learned--what worked, what didn't). A listserv or common knowledge group might be a first step towards more formal processes

Eric:
If IT is more engaged with Library decision makers we can raise the profile of these issues.

Dan:
Security can be a driver moving us towards sustainability and best practices. Library decision makers will hear that sustainability is important if the risks are articulated.

Shawn:
Principles:
Open Standards
Sustainability over functionality
Security

Trish:
Maybe we should work together to articulate principles

Stephen:
Does anyone have a platform for this.

Eric and Matthew:
Do a CKG and you get a Confluence WIKI. It's not perfect but might be a good place to start.

Bryn:
Efficiency and saving $ is another selling point.

Dan:
Prioritization is important.

Rosalie:
If you document the development practice then you can be specific about risks and inefficiencies.

Sean:
Making these best practices part of policies, so nothing gets built without documentation, etc.

Trish:
CDL uses Pivotal Tracker. Perhaps we could get a system-wide license to help with collaboration.

Marisa:
Pivotal Tracker has a good API. I will be working on app Development workflow documentation

Sean:
Jira can be helpful in documenting workflows.

Dan:
One trend in libraries is to go more digital. This makes libraries more dependent on IT. Not everyone understands the importance of IT to the library.

Trish:
Tracking costs is also important. It would be good to see costs at different campuses for similar projects.

Sean:
Tracking time can also help with estimating time.

Shawn:
Wrap up. I think we agree that we really need to collaborate to give the libraries what they really want.

Shu (question after session):
What are the factors to consider when carrying out the principle of "sacrificing functionality for sustainability"?