

VRA EAC Community Hour

Friday, June 24, 2022 1:00-2:00 pm EDT/ 10:00am-11:00pm PDT

Topic: Summer Check-in

Moderators: Lael Ensor-Bennett & Summer Shetenhelm

- Please keep your microphones muted--please use a reaction, raise your hand, or use the chat to indicate that you would like to speak.
- **Video not required**, virtual backgrounds welcome (be mindful of your virtual background selections). Feel free to add your pronouns to your Zoom name.
 - [How to change your name during a Zoom meeting](#)
 - How to provide captions via [PowerPoint](#) or [Google Slides live captions](#)
 - <https://webcaptioner.com/> - Free Captioning Right In Your Browser
- If you'd like to ask a question anonymously, please send your question through a private chat to any moderators listed above.
- **Community Hours are not recorded** for the sake of attendees' privacy and so that all attendees feel safe to express any concerns or questions they may have on various topics.

Attendees are encouraged to take notes under the '[Community Notes](#)' section of this document.

EAC webpage: <http://vraweb.org/about/committees/equitableaction/>

EAC email: ea@vraweb.org

Submit a topic for a future Community Hour: <https://forms.gle/fENKfkEJjAC6Fqew5>

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Thank you! [Visual Resources Association's Equitable Action Committee](#)

Discussion Prompts:

- What's your biggest win so far this calendar year? What's a current challenge you're facing with your work? What gave you hope for the profession? What did you learn recently that inspired you?
- On a scale of 1-10 how burnt out are you?
- Will your fall be "completely back to normal" per admin at your institution?
- What are some future EAC initiatives you'd like to see? How can we better support you? What would you learn more about?

Community Notes:

- [Today's Jamboard](#)
- We checked in with each other about how we are feeling today using options in the jamboard
- Many of us are feeling burned out to some degree or another, a lot of stressors going on right now (end of the fiscal year, academic year, world events, etc.)
- It's normal for us to feel overwhelmed—many of us feel this way!
- Some common themes from our jamboard post-its (both positives and negatives)
 - "Wins" included
 - Successful completion of projects
 - Campus buy-in on projects, DH initiatives
 - Progress in some DEI initiatives on campus
 - Challenges included
 - Overextended
 - Not enough resources or staff for the work that needs to be done'
 - Staff shortages
 - Work-life balance—when to take time off when you're extremely busy
 - Some folks always seem to be the ones stepping up!
 - "Real" work in our collections vs. more people-centered work (committees, emails, etc.)
 - "Scope creep"
 - Not enough support to do our work for various reasons
 - Struggling to create new positions, hire folks
 - "Having too much work" creating a case for hiring help
 - Relationships building very important
 - Not knowing what our fall schedules will be (ex. On or off campus or a hybrid)
 - We are looking forward to
 - New workshops and potential collaborations across campus
 - Teaching students concepts beyond just finding images
 - Renovation of space! New Digital Art History Lab!

- Return of students and faculty to campus and renewed opportunities to collaborate and network in person!
- Return to “relative normal” and having faculty/students back in our spaces
- Looking forward to social events again
- Capitalizing on the new “vintage” status of slides to find new uses for deaccessioned collections
- Intentionally setting up opportunities to interact and network with other folks on campus
- We are worried about
 - Losing WFH days
 - Taking on more responsibilities
 - Having supervisors who don’t understand our work and what needs to be done
 - Trying to update collections with not much support or understanding of what this entails—outdated collections, outdated job descriptions

Resources:

VRA Solo SIG: <https://3.basecamp.com/3499433/join/YSKECdcJat4g>