Library, Archive and Museum Collaboration

Günter Waibel
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OCLC Programs and Research

RLG Programs 2008 Partner Meeting
Paris, 6 Nov 2008
What’s in a word?

Collaboration
“I am talking about a transformational change that is akin to letting go of one trapeze in mid air before a new one swings into view.” Ken Soehner, Metropolitan
Collaboration Continuum

additive ... transformative
The Partnership & LAM Collaboration

- Who aspires to library, archive and museum collaboration?
- How are these collaborations conceived of and sustained?
- Can a workshop help us answer these questions?
Story Time

A short history of libraries, archives and museums

First: One for All—Cabinets of Curiosity

Less democratic • Less economic • More integrated
Then: One for Each—Libraries, Archives and Museums

More democratic • More economic • Less integrated
Now: One for All (Again)

Library + Archive + Museum = LAM

Most democratic • Most economic • Most integrated
Doug’s Presentation
A Sampling of Projects

- Comprehensive photo digitization

Smithsonian to put its 137 million-object collection online

STORY HIGHLIGHTS
- The Smithsonian will digitize its museum collections to make them viewable online
- "I worry about museums becoming less relevant to society," new chief says
- Museum leaders acknowledge they could do more to relate to youngsters
- Officials don't know how long it will take to digitize the 137 million-object collection
A Sampling of Projects

- Comprehensive photo digitization
- "Federation of Collections"

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**New Office Will Coordinate Digitization of Yale Resources**

*Published: September 26, 2008*

**New Haven, Conn.** — Yale has established a new Office of Digital Assets and Infrastructure (ODAI), and Meg Bellinger of the Yale University Library has been named as its first director, announced Provost Andrew Hamilton.

The new office will develop strategies and systems for:

- Providing even broader access to Yale’s collections, including digital renderings of materials in campus libraries, museums and other special collections;
- Preserving Yale’s collections of audio and video recordings of music, plays, exhibits and oral histories, as well as testimonies that are now on deteriorating media;

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Meg Bellinger
A Sampling of Projects

- Comprehensive photo digitization
- “Federation of Collections”
- Single search across all collections
A Sampling of Projects

- Comprehensive photo digitization
- “Federation of Collections”
- Single search across all collections
- “OneStore” for asset management
The Collaboration Catalysts

- **Collaboration Vision**
- **Stones for** Mandate
- **Stepping** Incentives
- **Collaboration** Change Agents
- **Stones for** Mooring
- **Stepping** Resources
- **Collaboration** Flexibility
- **Stones for** External Catalysts
- **Stepping** Trust
Vision

An inspiring vision provides the context in which obstacles can be overcome

"[If you] come up with a really creative, innovative vision that is at the intersection of these institutions and will help our mission, and you help me frame it, I'm more than ready to... carry it forward."
Mandate

A mandate provides clarity about priorities and empowers those naturally inclined to collaborate

"The vice-president of the university has called a task force together about digital dissemination, so we're all getting this as a mandate... Sustainability will become more possible because of the mandate... from someone far more powerful."
Incentive

Incentives ensure that staff have a tangible reason to engage in the hard work of collaboration

“We have spoken long about cross-institutional collaboration. The reality has been though... that we are measured against each other and then you do take naturally a possessive attitude.”
Mooring

An institutional mooring ensures that there is a home-base for the collaboration

"We need to have a federation [of collections] and a voice."
Beyond the Silos of the LAMs
Collaboration Among Libraries, Archives and Museums

Diane M. Zorich
Information Management Consultant

Günter Waibel
Program Officer

Ricky Erway
Senior Program Officer

OCLC Programs and Research

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What’s next?

• Panels at AAM, ALA and SAA in 2009

  • **American Association of Museums (AAM)** (confirmed)
    *Philadelphia PA, April 30 - May 4 2009*
    with
    Douglas Dodds, Head of Central Services, Word & Image Department, Victoria & Albert Museum
    Moderator: Günter Waibel, OCLC Research

  • **American Library Association (ALA)** (confirmed)
    *Chicago IL, July 9 - 15 2009*
    with
    John Scally, Director of University Collections, University of Edinburgh
    Beth McKillop, Keeper, Asian Department, and Director of Collections, Victoria & Albert Museum
    Moderator: Jennifer Schaffner, OCLC Research

  • **Society of American Archivists (SAA)** (pending SAA approval)
    *Austin TX, August 11 - 16 2009*
    Looks like nobody from the UK signed up for Texas...
    Moderator: Ricky Erway, OCLC Research

• How can we broaden the conversation?
Thank you!

And thanks also to my co-conspirators Ricky Erway and Diane Zorich, and all the workshop participants!

Comments or questions about the LAM? 
Want to subscribe to our LAM list? 
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