

Building a Collaborative Curation Framework:

Working Towards Sustainable Digital Stewardship

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Systems

Workflows

Content

People

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Surface aspirations & develop shared vision
- Reconceptualize curation work
- Assess organizational capacity
- Plan for technology infrastructure revamp
- Envision metadata design
- Create implementation plan

INTERVIEW THEMES

- Decrease silos
- Obtain support from library leadership
- Promote our digital collections
- Improve the user experience
- Become leaders in this space
- Maintain an open culture
- Invest in innovation
- Nurture technical skills outside of IT
- Appreciate consistency across products

COLLECTIONS

WORKFLOWS

SYSTEMS

guided by

managed by

stewarded by

CURATOR



SERVICE OWNER



PRODUCT OWNER



An appointed person responsible for understanding the requirements of a specific collection through the curation lifecycle

An appointed person responsible for the development & execution of service strategies and daily service management

An appointed person responsible for monitoring the success of a specific implemented technology

Consultant Recommendations

TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE	ORGANIZATIONAL DESIGN
Focus on core products & iterative innovation	Define curation framework components, vision & values, roles & responsibilities
Support accessioned archival materials	Connect service owners to leadership
Focus on consistent metadata & persistent identifiers	Invest in knowledge-sharing and skill development
Decide how architectural decisions will be made	

Artefactual Digital Curation Systems Report: <http://hdl.handle.net/1853/65362>

Progress & Challenges: Infrastructure



Progress & Challenges: Infrastructure

Focus on core products
& iterative innovation

PROGRESS

- Shared commitment to the core products within our ecosystem (DSpace, ArchivesSpace, Archivematica, Vireo)
- Product roadmaps created in partnership between Product Owners & Technologists

CHALLENGES

- Balancing innovation & ambition with capacity & sustainable maintenance
- Complexity of adopting multiple product changes together

Progress & Challenges: Infrastructure

Support
accessioned archival
materials

PROGRESS

- Archivemata implementation
- DSpace customizations for restricted collections
- Increased attention to ethical stewardship & the need to provide access to the institutional record backlog

CHALLENGES

- Human resource limitations & prioritization of work for accessioning, processing and access provision
- Understanding how investment in technology can help drive curation priorities related to DEI & ethics of care

Progress & Challenges: Infrastructure

Focus on consistent metadata & persistent identifiers

PROGRESS

- Core Metadata fields for descriptive metadata across content types & systems
- Shared understanding of the importance of metadata to connect content across systems & aid in discoverability

CHALLENGES

- Differences between levels of description: complex archival materials v. single works of scholarship
- Conceptual nature of creating crosswalks to synchronize metadata across multiple systems with different content models

Progress & Challenges: Infrastructure

Decide how architectural decisions will be made

PROGRESS

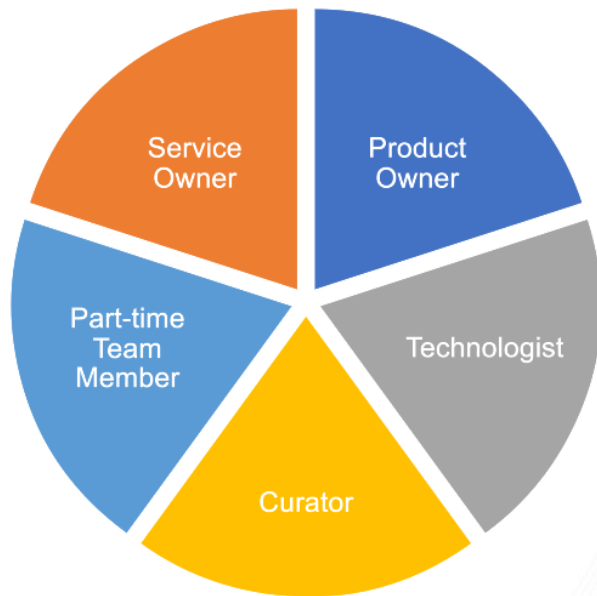
- Shared commitment to supporting technology for digital curation priorities (including funding!)
- Shared understanding that digital curation is a core mission & function of the organization

CHALLENGES

- Decision making guidelines for introducing or sunsetting products, or for prioritizing product customizations
- Recognizing that disruptive organizational change may be needed to move toward service sustainability

Progress & Challenges: Organizational Design

Our Curation Framework brings together employees from across the Library who care for the Library's unique collections



Services
+
Collections
+
Products
+
Caretakers

Progress & Challenges: Organizational Design

Define
framework components,
roles & responsibilities

PROGRESS

- Wrote and shared initial definitions for services, curatorial areas, products, vision, roles
- Product Owner and Technologist roles embraced

CHALLENGES

- Employees juggle multiple roles at once
- Service Owner and Curator roles not yet fully explored

Progress & Challenges: Organizational Design

Connect service owners to leadership

PROGRESS

- Report offered opportunities to communicate with leadership
- Bridges between historical silos are becoming more visible to stakeholders

CHALLENGES

- Understanding the responsibilities of a Service Owner
- Figuring out how services can collaborate across the curation lifecycle to achieve shared goals

Progress & Challenges: Organizational Design

Invest in
knowledge sharing &
skill development

PROGRESS

- Deepened understanding and investment from IT in library/archives service context
- Increased interest in DEI and ethical stewardship as strategic curation priorities

CHALLENGES

- Bridging professional domains within the library through definitions, while respecting differences
- Balancing open community-building with establishing clarity of plan and vision

Progress & Challenges: Organizational Design



Where We're Headed

TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE	ORGANIZATIONAL DESIGN
Implement core metadata schema to connect collections across product ecosystem	Clarify and embrace service owner and curator roles
Define overarching infrastructure priorities and work plans for the next few years	Collaborate on shared priorities that support previously siloed workflows
Continue to define how architectural decisions will be made	Reinvigorate open community of practice alongside formal planning activities

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Where We're Headed

DEMONSTRATING HOW OUR COLLABORATIVE CURATION FRAMEWORK:

Supports employees and end-users

Moves the library towards
sustainable digital stewardship



Archives Curation
Framework

Conceptual
model



Concrete
action

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Try This at Home

Starting points for practitioners looking to reimagine and sustain their curation work across existing silos

- Experiment with design thinking activities to surface new ideas and build a community of practice
- Interview stakeholders to discover shared aspirations and hidden roadblocks
- Derive a vision and plan from the interview data
- Articulate the vision and plan so all can see and engage with it
- Secure leadership sponsor(s) for the vision and plan
- Allow the vision and plan to evolve, emphasizing commonalities and making room for real differences
- Take comfort: organizational culture change requires endurance and time, but practitioners across libraryland are in this together



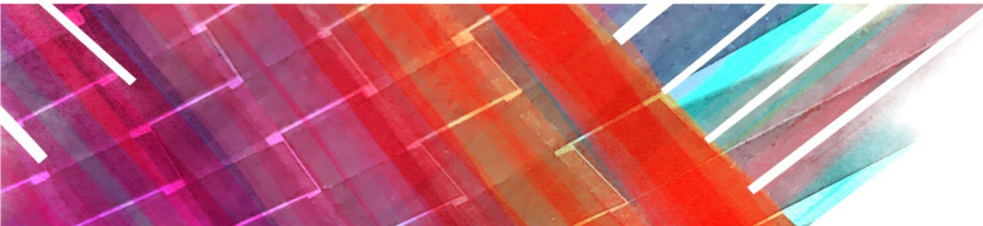
Thank you to Ashley Blewer for helping us to bridge and beautify our old silos.

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