Organizational Models

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Private LOCKSS Networks:
Community-based Approaches to Distributed Digital Preservation

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Project Goals

- Describe archival work as business rules
- Implement those rules in middleware to automate processing
- Test LOCKSS for records
- Build a community of shared practice
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Community of Shared Practice

- Adopt a similar methodology and technology
  - Similar to adopting APPM and MARC-AMC
  - Overcoming view that “we’re special”
  - Establishing equivalent standards for archival workflow

- Avoid separate, redundant, incompatible systems
- Support code sharing
- Best understanding of best practices
Two Organizations

For the project
- Grant pays partners
- Informal memorandum of agreement
- Less is more

Following the grant
- Partners pay membership
- More later . . .
Community Building

- Speed dating
  - Little time
  - Small population
  - Competition

Lesson 1
- Choose your partners well
Partner Education

• Make sure partners understand the project and expectations

Lesson 2: Do they really understand the project from a technical point of view?

Lesson 3: Do they really understand the time commitment?
Growth: New Partners

- Bringing on new partners too soon required more time than expected to get them up to speed

Lesson 4: Wait until a project is stable before bringing on new partners
Creativity and Innovation

- May be easier for technology staff than for curatorial staff

Lesson 5: Staff needs curatorial theory and technical knowledge to find new ways to work

Lesson 5A: Staff needs to be open to finding new ways to work
Virtual tools
- Basecamp: Document sharing, announcements
- GoToMeeting: Virtual meetings
- When people connect, it can be great!

Lesson 6: Face-to-face continues to be valuable to build personal relationships
Lesson 6A: Need to manage project staff who aren’t direct reports to PI
Lesson 6B: Work at hand often trumps project work
Consultants and the Team

• Consultants’ perspective not necessarily aligned with project goals
• Consultants often had other goals, including future work

• Lesson 7. Consultants’ work may be more expedient than well designed
• Lesson 7A: Consultants need supervision
Leadership

• With a strong leader, followers may not take on leadership from within the ranks
  • They may be intimidated
  • They may not see a need

Lesson 8: Not yet learned
Sustainable Collaborative

Original business model

• No partner could justify full-time BizTalk programmer
• Shared programmer could efficiently reuse code, know opportunity for code reuse
• Shared resource: ~ $25k/year/partner
Two Models

• Single partner takes lead
  • Programmer employee of that partner
  • Some admin overhead

• Non-profit membership organization
  • New, dedicated organization
  • Join existing organization (Lyrasis)
The Future

• Partners cannot afford a membership fee

• Seeking NHPRC grant for two years
  • Provides support for developer, admin
  • Continued ingest and development of new code

• If grant not received, partners will maintain existing systems as is with light-weight MOA
For more

- www.pedalspreservation.org

- Pete Watters
  - Principle Investigator

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  - Principle investigator emeritus