

A Post-conference chat: Yours, Mine, Ours: Leadership Through Collaboration

Discussion Leaders: Günter Waibel, Program Officer, OCLC Research; Heather Gendron, Art Librarian, Sloane Art Library, UNC Chapel Hill; Adrienne Lai, NCSU Libraries Fellow

Friday, October 8, 2010

[13:52] hgendron: Welcome, we will start today's chat in about 10 minutes. As you log in, please feel free to personalize your nickname and introduce yourself to the group!

[13:53] hgendron: Hi, I'm Heather - Chair of the ARLIS/NA Education Subcommittee and one of the chat moderators for today's session.

[13:53] Adrienne Lai: To change your nickname, just click on "edit nickname" right under the box where you type your chat message

[13:53] Adrienne Lai: I'm Adrienne, a member of the ARLIS/NA Education Subcommittee, and I'll also be moderating today.

[13:56] waibelg: Hi Heather, Adrienne, and everybody who has already tuned in! I'm Günter, and I just discovered that this chat does Umlauts 😊. I'll help get the discussion going today.

[13:57] waibelg: I was one of the many hands which created the forum "Yours, Mine, Ours: Leadership Through Collaboration", which will be the focus of our chat today.

[14:01] hgendron: Thank you for joining us today, let's get started!

[14:01] Sancho11: Hello, Gilda Santana here, Architecture Librarian, University of Miami. Just testing. This is my first time using this app.

[14:02] hgendron: Welcome Gilda!

[14:02] waibelg: We thought we'd start by hearing from those who have joined us about their collaborations.

[14:03] waibelg: Please chime in with one particular success, and one particular challenge associated with your existing collaborations.

[14:03] guest7099467: I am a librarian at Shorter University, and the first ever Art Liaison, so I would love to hear what has worked for others

[14:04] Adrienne Lai : And remember, this can be a collaboration within an institution (different library departments?) or across institutions

[14:04] Sancho11: The University of Miami is one of the partners in the Shared Shelf Initiative being developed by ARTstor.

[14:04] hgendron: Shared Shelf is an excellent example. Does everyone know what that is?

[14:04] waibelg: Sancho11, what do you think has contributed to the success of that collaboration?

[14:06] hgendron: Gunter has laid out some scenarios in his report that could help trigger some ideas about collaboration, for instance...

[14:06] guest7099467: Rick from Shorter, could someone explain the Shared Shelf Initiative?

[14:06] Sancho11: Well, it is still pretty much in the initial stages, but our reasons for partnering have much to do with the fact that we have so many image collections that we WANT to share.

[14:06] hgendron: "We work together because we have the same employer."

[14:06] Sancho11: I can point you to the URL with the general info in just a moment,

[14:07] hgendron: "We work together because we have common interests." Which sounds like what Sancho11 might be talking about ?

[14:07] Adrienne Lai : Here's the url from the ARTstor site: <http://www.artstor.org/shared-shelf/s-html/shared-shelf-index.shtml>

[14:08] hgendron: What other examples do folks in the chat room have of collaboration?

[14:08] hgendron: What collaborative projects are you working on?

[14:08] Sancho11: Yes, you are right. Interoperability has been an enormous issue.

[14:09] hgendron: Or, do you have an idea for collaboration but are having trouble getting started?

[14:10] Adrienne Lai : I have an example of an intra-institutional collaboration - at NCSU Libraries, our Special Collections is collaborating with our metadata & cataloging department - we are getting catalogers to do descriptive work on our archives and digitized objects

[14:10] hgendron: Also, we are interested in hearing from participants who attended the conference - do you have any questions or ideas to share?

[14:11] waibelg: Adrienne, what do you think was the main reason people decided to pull together around cataloging for archives/digitized objects?

[14:11] Adrienne Lai : I think it was kind of symbiotic

[14:12] Adrienne Lai : with budget cuts affecting the number of print items we were acquiring, there was less to catalog

[14:12] hgendron: interesting! someone was smart and saw a great opportunity there

[14:12] Adrienne Lai : and at the same time, like many archives, we had a backlog of materials that needed to be described before we could make them accessible

[14:13] waibelg: One of the things I talked about in my opening remarks was that tough economic times were both a challenge, and a grand opportunity for collaboration. Looks like you seized the opportunity, Adrienne!

[14:14] Adrienne Lai : but more importantly, I think it succeeded because folks were willing to hand over archival work to library professionals (in some circles, there's a division between archives and libraries)

[14:14] Adrienne Lai : and I think the catalogers find the opportunity to work with archival materials genuinely interesting

[14:14] hgendron: I'm curious if anyone here has been collaborating on collection development - across institutions

[14:15] Adrienne Lai : it did take some training though - this is the case when folks from different disciplines decide to work collaboratively

[14:15] hgendron: If you are just joining our chat, please introduce yourself! You can also personalize your nickname by clicking on it in the chat box below (if you are using the screen on the Chats page).

[14:16] hgendron: Adrienne, what has surprised you most about this collaboration?

[14:17] Adrienne Lai : I think it's how well the archival and library worlds can work together

[14:17] Adrienne Lai : since I was trained in Canada, where there is more separation between the two

[14:18] hgendron: Have any catalogers joined us today?

[14:18] guest7423835: I've heard that Bowdoin, Colby and Bates (all in Maine) have an experiment with collaborative collection development in full swing.

[14:18] waibelg: If I understood correctly, at the U of Calgary they are trying a model where a lot of cataloging for all three communities (libraries, archives and museums) would be supported through one central unit.

[14:20] Adrienne Lai : One thing I was wondering was if what is really driving many of these collaborations is not "we have the same employer" or "we have the same interests" but "we have the same users"

[14:20] Adrienne Lai : who want to access these resources at one point

[14:21] Adrienne Lai : this seems to be part of the logic behind the U of Calgary collaboration, in any case (where the library, archives and museums will be centralized in one building!)

[14:22] hgendron: guest7423835 - does that also mean they are collaborating in tech services?

[14:22] waibelg: I couldn't agree more, Adrienne. Ultimately, any collaboration will be judged against how much better it enables us to serve our audiences - it's a major driver.

[14:23] waibelg: I haven't heard much about Bowdoin, Colby and Bates yet - does anybody know details?

[14:24] hgendron: Feel free to jump in folks! Don't be shy. 😊

[14:25] guest7099467: Has anyone had any good collaborations in more of the public services area?

[14:26] hgendron: guest7099467 - Yes, we're collaborating with our campus art museum at UNC. What kind of collaborations are you hoping for?

[14:26] Adrienne Lai : I think that's an interesting question!

[14:26] hgendron: There are so many great opportunities to collaborate in public services.

[14:27] Adrienne Lai : Is anyone collaborating on public services points?

[14:27] guest7423835: Quick search result, here's a link to an article in the Bowdoin newspaper on the collaboration: <http://orient.bowdoin.edu/orient/article.php?date=2010-04-23§ion=1&id=10>

[14:28] guest7099467: My biggest challenge is getting art students and faculty to see the library as something that can help them in their creative projects. I have an open invitation to the studios, but would like to take better advantage of that.

[14:28] hgendron: A quote by one of the conference speakers, Allan Cohen, comes to mind: ""Planting seeds is important - it takes time for payoff."

[14:28] hgendron: That should have said "Planting seeds..."

[14:30] guest7423835: I'm a firm believer that in general two minds (or three, four, five) are better than one. A little extra patience is sometimes required for a productive collaboration but in the long run the extra effort usually pays off.

[14:30] Adrienne Lai : guest7099467, supporting practice is a big and difficult area! Are you involved in instruction at all? Do instructors let you know about course assignments?

[14:32] hgendron: Are there any archivists here today? Are you collaborating with librarians and/or museum staff on instruction or other endeavors?

[14:32] guest7099467: I am not an instructor, although I have been able to do a tiny bit of unofficial advising (I haven't started an MFA yet). I also try to to some reference when I am there.

[14:32] waibelg: guest7423835, Rob Stein (Indianapolis Museum of Art) said during the forum "Benefits from collaboration

are indirect, or delayed," which goes to your observation that a little patience is often necessary.

[14:32] waibelg: Rob also mentioned that it's a good idea to break out pieces of work into small chunks for collaborators so that they're not overwhelmed and have a clear, time-bounded way to contribute.

[14:34] Adrienne Lai : guest7099467, I guess I meant library instruction. One thing that was emphasized at the conference was that it's important to figure out what your potential collaborators care about, and then give them some of that!

[14:34] Adrienne Lai : How can you make life easier for your faculty and students?

[14:34] Adrienne Lai : What are they doing?

[14:35] Adrienne Lai : What are their workflows, and how do you fit in/

[14:35] guest7099467: I am working on that. I was given ten minutes for an impromptu instruction session once, but have not been able to secure a more commitment from the instructors Perhaps next semester.

[14:36] hgendron: Keep trying! Try explaining what you can do with 30 minutes or 1 hour.

[14:36] hgendron: You might try putting together an outline of whatyou'd cover with more time.

[14:37] jevans: Are any of you engaged in museum/academic collaborations? Saw one reference earlier, but I'm thinking about non-academic museums?

[14:37] waibelg: Good advice from Heather.

[14:37] hgendron: With some faculty, it's just a matter of time and chipping away at them with niceness and your mad librarian skills. 😊

[14:39] hgendron: Hm, I'd like to hear about that too -collaboratins with non-academic museums.

[14:39] waibelg: John, I'd be interested in hearing about that as well. Anybody know of non-academic museums partnering with university campuses?

[14:39] waibelg: If I remember correctly, the library of the Cleveland Museum of Art supports art history at Case Western? (or am I making that up?)

[14:40] jevans: We've been hosting more "sessions" with undergrad classes as of late although I wouldn't necessarily call these collaborations. That said, good opportunities to connect our collections w/faculty & students in the region.

[14:41] jevans: Correct, Cleveland does have a formal relationship with Case to serve as their primary art research facility. They're a good model of a really embedded institutional collaboration.

[14:42] hgendron: Do you have any insight into what makes teh Cleveland program work so well?

[14:47] hgendron: This is one of our favorite quotes from the conference, it might take a little eplaining though...

[14:47] waibelg: I think I know what's coming 😊

[14:47] jevans: here's link to more background: <http://www.clevelandart.org/learn.aspx?pid=%7B3493E1FE-7F7F-48D3-84AE-82B4CD6BF408%7D&ItemId=%7B3493E1FE-7F7F-48D3-84AE-82B4CD6BF408%7D&sidebar=University%20Programs>

[14:47] hgendron: [paraphrased] "A good project leader is the guy who is willing to eat the spoonful of vegemite if that's what it takes."

[14:47] guest7099467: Talking to one of our instructors the other day, they mentioned that part of their problem in teaching art history is that we have so little access to original art. Has anyone ever tried a loan agreement with a small museum

[14:48] guest7099467: We are in a more rural area

[14:49] guest7423835: Both complicated and time consuming from an administrative point of view. What about weekend field trips to museums?

[14:49] hgendron: That's an interesting idea! At a recent meeting of our area academic libraries, there was discussion among some special collections folks about loaning material to one-another. seems like it could be do-able...?

[14:51] waibelg: My colleague Dennis Massie in OCLC Research has been working on ILL'ing special collections. You'll find a Webinar on the topic under the title "Special Delibery" linked to from this page:

<http://www.oclc.org/research/events/webinars.htm>

[14:52] hgendron: Excellent Gunter, thanks for that.

[14:52] waibelg: It has taken years, but it seems that there is finally more willingness on folks in special collections to do this.

[14:53] Adrienne Lai: Thanks! What has held up the willingness? Is it the insurance cost? If museums can loan out their works, why can't special collections?

[14:53] hgendron: I think we have to really look at how benefits can really outway the risks in a lot of cases - if handled smartly and resonsibly - lots of opportunities there if we're ready to take a chance.

[14:54] guest7099467: what might be the expense to the borrowing library?

[14:54] waibelg: As in so many cases, I suspect that the obstacles were cultural in nature - meaning that special collections folks just weren't used to thinking about their materials leaving the building. Its not how they think they should behave as

good custodians.

[14:55] hgendron: Not part of the spec colls workflow *yet*.

[14:55] waibelg: But in an age where use of materials proves that you were right to collect it in the first place, that's a different story.

[14:56] waibelg: guest7099467, I can't answer that question. However, if you're interested, get in touch with Dennis: -----
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[14:57] guest7423835: Insurance, contracts, how to ensure that the institution you are loaning it to will properly display and protect the item. What if it is a work of art that requires expert handling or hanging, etc.

[14:58] jevans: from our perspective it was never about revenue, but know that you're materials were in good hands & appropriate conditions on the other end. So having a personal relationship often made all the difference.

[14:58] waibelg: I think what Dennis is working on right now is how to codify all those requirements so a lender knows a borrower will treat their stuff within certain parameters.

[14:58] waibelg: I wish he was here to explain the details - but he'll be at the next ARLIS conference, so corner him there!

[14:58] hgendron: Well, our time is about up today! Thank you everyone for joining us and participating in our chat. We covered a lot of ground!

[14:59] hgendron: Please check out our next WEBINAR...

[14:59] hgendron: we're going to have a great webinar on Nov 5th about the new ACRL Visual Literacy Standards:
<http://www.arlisna.org/webinars/index.html>

[14:59] waibelg: Thanks from me as well. In case you'd like to learn more about the Forum which inspired this chat, here are some resources for you:

[14:59] hgendron: Thank you especially to Gunter and Adrienne!

[14:59] jevans: thank you Heather, Gunter and Adrienne.

[14:59] guest7099467: thanks, everyone

[15:00] Adrienne Lai: Thank you all!

[15:00] waibelg: Thanks to all of you for contributing!

[15:00] hgendron: Have a great weekend everyone.

[15:00] waibelg: I'm hoping my cat will collaborate with me as I'm trying to take her to the vet next. 😊 (Any tips?)

[15:01] hgendron: ha! good luck, we haven't covered collaboration across species yet...

[15:02] guest7423835: Thanks all. My first meebo session. I wasn't here for every minute of the discussion, but good to know the conversation will be accessible online.

[15:02] hgendron: may be a good topic for a December chat. 🍷

[15:02] waibelg: Maybe a topic for another chat, Heather? 😊 Bye now!

[15:02] hgendron: Bye!