

RLG Work Agenda: Highlights for the Archival Community

The full Work Agenda for RLG Programs is on the web at:

http://www.rlg.org/en/downloads/aboutrlg/RLG_Programs_Agenda_1.0.pdf

The RLG Programs Work Agenda is organized into 6 major themes: the themes are divided into programs and projects. This document calls out particular areas that may be of interest to the archival community. Readers are also invited to browse the full work agenda.

Theme 1: Supporting New Modes of Research, Teaching, and Learning

Understanding how researchers and scholars are likely to operate in a networked environment is of vital importance for all cultural heritage institutions. There are several projects that will be of interest for the archival community, but perhaps most relevant is *Project 3C*, (page 3) which will summarize a number of studies on disciplinary research behaviors in order to define high-level requirements for network level services. *Project 5a* (page 5) will result in a number of case studies which will outline organizational and service relationships between libraries, museums, and archives where the three institutions exist together in a “campus” setting.

Theme 2: Managing the Collective Collection

This theme focuses in part on helping institutions understand and prepare for an environment where more materials are digitized as a result of partnership with funding from third-party organizations. Of interest in this theme are *Project 2a* (page 8), Mass Digitization and Partnership Agreements, which gives guidance to those seeking to make good agreements with digitization partners. Also of interest *Project 2b* (page 9) is the recently-completed RLG Forum, “Digitization Matters,” which focused on how special collections can more effectively bring analog materials online. More information about this event can be found on the RLG Programs website.

Theme 3: Renovating Descriptive and Organizing Practices

Libraries, archives, and museums continue to want to improve description, ensuring that they get (and give) more bang for the buck. Projects in this area that are of interest include *Project 1a* (page 12), Establishing a baseline understanding of metadata practice. This survey will show what tools and practices are common across institutions, and how institutions work together and apart. *Project 1b* (page 13) will be a follow-on project, and will suggest how institutions can create metadata that is more sharable. *Project 2a* (page 14): in the spring, RLG Programs will hold a tools forum to help surface tools that can be used to help with the metadata creation or enhancement process. *Project 3a* (page 15) looks to prototype an “identities” resource, which will bring in information for users to uniquely identify persons or corporate bodies. *Project 3b* (page 16) will bring together practitioners from libraries, archives, and museums to help prioritize needs in the areas of terminologies, with the aim of creating one or more prototypes for use in metadata creation.