Conference Call Notes
March 11, 2016
Notetaker: Anne Bahde

Present: Lisa, Gordon, Bill, Sam, Julie, Heather, Leah

Absent: Sarah

Hellos, Roll Call. Announcements, administrative updates, etc. – 5 min
Subgroup reports:

1) Definition subgroup – 25 min - with goal of reaching a decision on a definition that we can distribute to broader constituency for comment.

Lisa and Julie reported for this group. From Julie's email:

Two working definitions:
1.   Primary source literacy is the combination of knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to effectively find, interpret, evaluate, and ethically use primary sources within disciplinary contexts.

2.   Primary source literacy is the combined knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to effectively find, interpret, evaluate, and ethically use primary sources, with particular attention to the properties of the object(s) and/or the relationship of the parts to the whole, within disciplinary contexts and the posing of a research question.

 It fits our charge better to say what primary source literacy is rather than what a person with primary source literacy has. (The charge reads "Develop a definition of primary source literacy…").

·   The definition should take into account interdisciplinary nature of much contemporary research.

·   Does "the whole object" work for most examples of primary source literacy, including archival materials? Would it be more accurate to say "the properties of the object and/or the relationship of the parts to the whole"?

·   What does "the whole object" mean when we're talking about a facsimile or a database?

·   Could primary source literacy apply to someone outside of the context of a research question? (This came up at ALA Midwinter, too, where the majority of task force members present said we should focus on research usage).

· How do we balance a definition of primary source literacy which will work for *all* primary sources (facsimiles, databases, etc.) with a definition that will especially enable us to communicate with faculty and others about the materials in our collections?

· The terms "efficiently" and "structure" seemed to be unnecessary/implied.

Bill commented on the question of attention to "the whole object," saying that it is a factor, but it is not definitional to him.

Heather commented that in some ways the word object is not the right word, but how the primary source is delivered (digital, etc) is crucial.

Gordon wishes to articulate the term primary source more clearly. Heather echoed this concern. The term primary source was discussed; Bill commented that including the digital is necessary in this definition. Anne commented that the phrase "parts to the whole" is somewhat problematic; the critical role of *context* was discussed, and some various phrases were tried out. Bill reiterated that defining "primary source" is crucial to have in the definition. Bill suggested a definition that includes "first-hand testimony or direct evidence;" problems in these terms were pointed out, and it was decided that we will continue to think about this as a committee and try to settle on one soon vis discussion in the Google doc.

2) Key Concepts subgroup – 10 min
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uHYEspD_9KHgdIhyEs4h-yPnO4OD_eILRJRu9LmGFbY/edit
Leah described the subgroup's work, noting that these are definitely open to change.
The issue of context was discussed, again the necessity of including this in definition, but Leah suggested that engagement is also crucial, noting that context is also a learning attitude or approach. Bill suggested that context should be a key concept. Bill had concern about the level of the key concepts, and the group reported that they had operated from the idea of the key concepts being a broad preamble to the entire frame.

3) Learning goals subgroup – 10 min
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wFhxbiPzZRouWoZ1fauRCWoGZm-vXHj5Ma_9jt51UdU/edit
Bill and Gordon reported for this group. Gordon expressed the wish to understand better how the key concepts and the learning goals fit together before proceeding much further.

4) Discussion of plan to weave these reports together – 5 min
Questions, additional discussion, wrap-up – 5 min

Heather proposed that we all look at the three workgroups, specifically focusing on definition and key concepts to get the big picture framed; we agreed that this would be our work for the

next couple of weeks. Bill reported that it looks like SAA plans are shaping up; it is looking like we will have a lunchtime meeting on Thursday, August 4th.