

Better Together: Effective Partnerships for Libraries, Archives, and Museums

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Abstract: In 2007, OCLC conducted five case studies of library, archive and museum collaboration in order to document collaboration across Libraries, Archives and Museums (LAMs.) The resulting report, “Beyond the Silos of the LAMs: Collaboration Among Libraries, Archives and Museums”^[1] introduced a new framework for viewing collaboration, the “collaboration continuum.” This presentation will provide an update on the report case studies and, importantly, connect the concept of convergence to the more recent report, “Research and Learning Agenda for Archives, Special, and Distinctive Collections in Research Libraries” (2017.)^[2] This new report has proposed seven topical areas of investigation. We will focus on “Frameworks for Distributed Responsibility” for born digital materials as an example of an area ripe for convergence. We will use Five Colleges^[3] and Museums10^[4], as an exemplar and explore the potential for a “greenfield” organizational framework for supporting born-digital collections across the research library and academic museum. Bringing these initiatives together to the SAA Research Forum will instigate renewed exploration of actual and tangible inter-institutional collaboration that has the potential to lead LAMs from collaboration to convergence in the areas the professions will most benefit from being converged.

Audience Takeaways:

1. What tools could equip museum, library and archive professionals to do fact finding at their institutions to explore readiness for collaboration and to identify areas that are ripe for convergence?
2. How are their institutions situated on the collaboration continuum and what would be drivers and catalysts to distributing responsibility?

About the Authors:

Merrilee Proffitt is a Senior Manager in OCLC Research and provides project management skills and expert support to institutions in the OCLC Research Library Partnership. Merrilee is an active member of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries (RBMS-ACRL). She has authored or co-authored articles, guidelines, and reports for a variety organizations and professional journals. She is frequently an invited speaker at international professional conferences and workshops on topics relating to digital libraries and special collections. In 2014, Merrilee was elected as a Fellow of SAA, the highest honor bestowed on individuals by SAA and awarded for outstanding contributions to the archival profession. She is passionate about forging connections between Wikimedia projects and cultural heritage institutions. She is the editor of *Leveraging Wikipedia: Connecting Communities of Knowledge* (ALA Editions, 2018).

Before coming to OCLC in 2001, Merrilee was Director of Digital Archive Development at the Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley.

Jennifer Gunter King is the Director of the Harold F. Johnson Library and Knowledge Commons at Hampshire College, providing leadership in developing Library programs, services, collections and resources, as well as the integration of academic services that include writing, speaking, media, library research, holistic learning, instructional technology and art installation, with the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Prior to joining Hampshire in 2012, Jennifer was the Director of Archives and Special Collections at Mount Holyoke College (2004-2012), where she initiated an online digital archive, electronic records archiving, and campus-wide exhibitions and programming.

Jennifer is active in the New England Archivists, SAA and ACRL. Her interests include adapting Libraries and Special Collections to 21st C challenges and opportunities, advancing the accessibility of archival resources and digital strategies that elevate access to art, archives and object-based collections in academic settings.

[1] <https://www.oclc.org/content/dam/research/publications/library/2008/2008-05.pdf>

[2] <https://www.oclc.org/research/publications/2017/oclcresearch-research-and-learning-agenda.html>

[3] <https://www.fivecolleges.edu/>

[4] <http://museums10.org/>