Radical Collaboration

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Abstract: Radical collaboration is a means for coming together across disparate, but engaged, domains in ways that are often unfamiliar or possibly uncomfortable to achieve more together than we could separately. This community-based concept was the theme for Research Library Issues (RLI) 296 released in December 2018 (https://publications.arl.org/rli296/) with a focus on research data management. This session will provide an overview of radical collaboration with several examples to illustrate how it might work. There will be time for questions and discussion.

About the Authors:

Nancy Y. McGovern is the Director of Digital Preservation at MIT Libraries and of the Digital Preservation Management (DPM) workshop series, offered more almost sixty times since 2003. She has more than thirty years of experience with preserving digital content. Her research and community interests include increasing organizational capacity to develop and sustain digital preservation programs; working to build a diverse and inclusive digital community through radical collaboration; and the means for organizations and communities to continually respond to the opportunities and challenges of ongoing technological change. She is a past president of the Society of American Archives (SAA) and was designated a Fellow of the Society in 2009. She completed her PhD on digital preservation at UCL in 2009.

Heather Soyka is an Assistant Professor at the Kent State iSchool, teaching in the areas of archival studies and research data management. She held a postdoctoral fellowship with DataONE, a project funded by the National Science Foundation that is concerned with open access and use of multi-national, multi-scale environmental and ecological science data. Her recent work examines community engagement and recordkeeping factors relevant to capacity building, collaboration, sustainability, and reuse. She holds a PhD in archival studies from the University of Pittsburgh iSchool.

Kari R. Smith is the Institute Archivist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Distinctive Collections where she works with MIT's records creators and faculty, staff, and students to document the activities of the Institute. Previously, she was the Digital Archivist at MIT Libraries. She has worked with metadata, digital records, and archives in corporate, governmental, educational, and heritage organizations for over 20 years. She believes in the power of information and records as evidence and as important components that document our human experience. Smith earned her M.S.I. in Archives Administration from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor's School of Information.