Projects in the Pipeline

February 2017

Below are brief updates on projects being tracked by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Coordinating Committee, covering the timeframe of October 2016 through January 2017. If you would like to propose a new project, please post it to the ARL IdeaScale Community arl.ideascale.com.

ARL Digital Scholarship Institute

The October 2016 planning meeting to develop a sustainable model for professional development in the digital humanities through the ARL Academy has resulted in the formation of the ARL Digital Scholarship Institute, the first iteration of which will take place at Boston College in June 2017. The institute will offer a cohort-based opportunity for ARL library professionals new to digital scholarship to develop their skills and gain confidence in a learner-centered environment. A second iteration of the institute is also planned for winter 2018 at the UC San Diego.

If you would like to receive news about the ARL Digital Scholarship Institute, please contact Elizabeth Waraksa: elizabeth@arl.org

ARL + Wikimedia Foundation

One of several ideas that emerged at the ARL/Wikipedia Summit in Columbus, Ohio, last spring was posted to the ARL IdeaScale Community for member review and commenting: An ARL/Wikimedia Foundation Collaboration on Linked Open Data. Spearheaded by York University Libraries, this project idea has reached the threshold required to progress to the preparation and submission of a project plan to the Coordinating Committee. If you would like more information on this project, please contact Joy Kirchner joyk@yorku.ca or Stacy Allison-Cassin sacassin@yorku.ca.

A second idea that emerged in Columbus, the formation of a Wikipedian Academy, will be considered by the ARL Academy Advisory Group. The Wikipedian Academy would be an ongoing learning opportunity for cohorts of Wikipedians in Residence and Wikipedia Visiting Scholars to come together with members of the ARL community. The goal is to improve shared understanding and advance the shared mission of expanding access to information.
Captioning Initiative

In late September and late December 2016, individuals representing a number of academic institutions committed to creating a digital repository for accessible course materials gathered in Washington, DC, to discuss collaborative strategies. These institutions—including UC Berkeley, George Mason University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Northern Arizona, Texas A&M University, Tufts University, University of Virginia, University of Wisconsin–Madison, and ARL—are preparing a preliminary proposal for an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant in support of the project. ARL’s focus in particular will be on a caption repository, as well as the legal issues involved.

In addition, Jody Combs (Vanderbilt) has been appointed ARL visiting program officer for accessibility, from January through June 2017, in order to advance ARL’s captioning initiative. Combs will meet with library and higher education stakeholders from across the US and Canada to learn more about their particular interests in accessibility and captioning. He will research issues regarding the tools, integration, interoperability, scope, and infrastructure for a variety of potential shared or individual repositories of captioned files.

If you would like to become involved in ARL’s work on accessibility and captioning, please contact Prue Adler prue@arl.org.

Coaching and Mentoring of Library Leaders

This project idea, to match retired ARL library directors interested in becoming mentors with emerging leaders in ARL libraries seeking mentorship, was posted to the ARL IdeaScale Community by Arnold Hirshon (Case Western Reserve). The idea reached the threshold required to progress to the preparation and submission of a project plan to the Coordinating Committee. The project plan was received in December and will be considered by the ARL Academy Advisory Group in February.

Journal Expenditures Survey and Scenarios

Pat Burns (Colorado State) posted two project ideas emerging from his 2016 survey of the ARL membership regarding journal subscription expenditures and author processing charges (APCs) to the ARL IdeaScale Community for member review and commenting: establishing a comprehensive marketing and communications plan, and exploring legal strategies to regain sustainability. Both ideas have reached the threshold required to progress to the preparation and submission of a project plan to the Coordinating Committee. Please stay tuned for more on this initiative in the coming months.
Red OA

This project idea proposes that ARL institutions that support arXiv with member dues stop paying APCs and/or subscription fees to the journals whose preprints appear in arXiv and redirect those funds to support arXiv instead. Brian E. C. Schottlaender (UC San Diego) posted this proposal to the ARL IdeaScale Community for member review and commenting following the Association’s Fall Meeting. The idea has now reached the threshold required to progress to the preparation and submission of a project plan to the Coordinating Committee. Please stay tuned for more on this initiative in the coming months.

SHARE in Action

Megan Potterbusch began her one-year National Digital Stewardship Residency with ARL, George Washington University, and the Center for Open Science in October 2016. Her goal for this residency is to develop a replicable process for embedding data management into the scholarly workflow using open source tools and infrastructure, including the Open Science Framework and SHARE. For more on Megan’s work, please read her recent blog post, “Applying the Open Science Framework to the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project to Improve Access and Workflow.”

OSF Preprints, an open preprint repository and aggregator powered by SHARE, was launched by the Center for Open Science in September. The launch was notable for its initial depth of content (more than 300,000 papers), and for the number of preprint services it aggregated (nine). OSF Preprints is also notable because it followed the rollout of branded services hosted for free by COS itself—including SocArXiv, PsyArXiv, and EngrXiv. Each of these arXiv-descended repositories are community-driven, grassroots collectives of scholars and librarians challenging the slow gatekeeping of journal publishing with faster, more accessible moderation and dissemination options.

The SHARE Curation Associates, an initial cohort of 34 library professionals from a diverse range of backgrounds, are now six months into their yearlong program to enhance local metadata and institutional curatorial practices, and work directly on the SHARE curation platform to link related assets (such as articles and data) to improve machine-learning algorithms. The associates gathered for their second training session and unconference in Atlanta, Georgia, following the ALA Midwinter Meeting.

To get more involved with SHARE, please contact Judy Ruttenberg judy@arl.org or Cynthia Hudson-Vitale chudson@wustl.edu or join one of SHARE’s new open community calls. The next call will take place Monday, April 10, at 1:00 p.m. EDT.

Got an idea for a collaborative ARL project? Post it to the ARL IdeaScale Community arl.ideascale.com!