Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2016, Noon-3:30pm

Meeting location:
New York State Archives
Albany, New York 12230

Present: Liza Duncan, Josh Hadro, John Hammond, Nate Hill, James Neal, Kathleen Roe, Polly Thistlethwaite
Absent: Mark Colvson
ESDN Staff: Chris Stanton, Kerri Willette

Guests: Michelle Arpey (State Archives), Susan D'Entremont (CDLC), Corey Harper (NYU), Diane Madrigal (State Library), Bernie Margolis (State Library), Tom Ruller (State Archives)

Project updates
The State of ESDN - Sustainability update (*Nate Hill, METRO Executive Director*):
- Hub was initially funded for three years at $300,000 annually. Current funding runs through fiscal year 2017.
- METRO has absorbed Kerri Willette's position into its operational budget.
- METRO is currently investigating new funding sources such as:
  - Grant options through the Foundation Center
  - State legislature
  - Partnerships with the State Library and the State Archives
  - Private partners
  - Generating additional revenue through other METRO digital services

Committee discussion:
- Is there any possibility that DPLA will offer funding?
  It's clear that DPLA will not be funding service hubs in the future. They are investigating models for their own sustainability.

- Is ESDN an ongoing project or is there an end in site?
  We see ESDN as an ongoing project. In addition to continuing to support ongoing aggregation of existing partners and new collections, there are many untapped content types that we have not yet addressed. DPLA is investigating newspapers and archival finding aids with the aim of eventually incorporating those materials in the future. Additionally, there are born digital collections, etc.

- Kathleen Roe: METRO may want to consider reaching out to the local and government archives community as potential ESDN partners that may have some funding options.

- John Hammond: In addition to monetary contributions, the ESLN councils also support $600,000 worth of staff time/year on digitization efforts and support in the regions, as well as $40,000/year to support New York Heritage.

- Bernie Margolis: There may be potential for ESDN to partner with NOVELNY.

Contribution/ingest update (*Kerri Willette*):
- Totals and new collection highlights:
  - We currently have a total of 197,396 New York records in DPLA.
  - New collection highlights:
    - New York State Archives - 5 new collections, including 2,000 aerial photographs
    - New York Philharmonic collections- almost 35,000 images
    - New-York Historical Society - 2,088 Robert Bracklow photographs
    - Palisades Interstate Park Commission - 1400 images depicting lands and resources protected by the PIPC

- Expecting our March ingest to include:
  - Collections from 32 Long Island institutions from New York Heritage
  - Many collections from smaller institutions from Western NY from New York Heritage
  - Culture in Transit partner content - collections from Queens Public library, Brooklyn Public Library
  - 63,000 records from MoMA

Phase 2 activities:
- Growing content:
  - We've more than doubled our content since the first dpla ingest in April
  - Continuing to grow content from hosted partners
    - More than 20,000 records from DCMNY
    - More than 40,000 records from New York Heritage
    - More than 12,000 records from Hudson River Valley Heritage

  - Phase 2 goal of adding 45 new non-hosted partners (5 from each region)
    - Almost half way there (12 non-hosted partners complete, 13 more in the works)
    - Should reach this goal by summer 2016

- Communication & Outreach:
  - New ESDN informational website (http://metro.org/esdn)
  - Working group updates
    - Outreach group - two subgroups have formed:

- Curriculum sub-group
  Using DPLA's Public Library Partnerships Program ([PLPP](#)) as a guide, this group, chaired by Jennifer Palmentiero (SENYLRC) will build on existing digital skills training programs and materials currently used by various ESLN councils to create a shared digital skills curriculum for information professionals statewide. The first meeting will be February 25th.
- Rights sub-group
  The Getting it Right on Rights white papers were released by DPLA/Europeana. These papers provide a standardized vocabulary for rights statements in digital records. This group, chaired by Anne Karle-Zenith (METRO) will address guidelines, outreach and education efforts in NY for institutions implementing the standard statements.

  - Metadata Group
    First meeting of the new group was on Oct 22nd. This group is compiling guidelines for creation of quality and shareable data. The output will be an easy to digest tool for metadata specialist, with field by field recommendations, examples from various systems and formats, and definitions for quality and shareable data.

  ○ ESDN staff will be extending outreach efforts to the archives/local records offices in 2016.

- Evaluation & assessment:
  ○ [ESDN Collection Reporting Tool](#)
    - Pulls collection data directly from REPOX
    - This tool has helped us enrich our data with more complete sub-collection information and has spurred data enhancements across all of our content
    - Next steps for development are to move to a model where we pull data from the DPLA API probably into some sort of [Hydra](#) based tool that allows us to do searching and indexing. This will be the first steps toward developing a NY portal based on the DPLA API.

  ○ Assessing use:
    - As an aggregator with no repository or portal, tracking usage in a standard way is extremely difficult. However, we can look at select partners analytics data to get a sense of how much traffic DPLA is driving to local collections

■ Local analytics data suggests that DPLA is driving traffic back to local collections -- ie. HRVH had 50,000 more visits in 2015 than in 2014. Since HRVH content went live in DPLA in April 2015, they have regularly registered over 10,000 monthly unique visitors. Before DPLA contribution, monthly visits had plateaued at under 9,000 visits.

Presentation

Analyzing ESDN/DPLA data and use (*Corey Harper, NYU*)

Corey Harper joined the group to share some of the data analysis he's done of ESDN data in DPLA. Corey gave examples of record completeness, field distribution and analysis, as well as term and bi-gram frequency in ESDN records. Corey then gave an overview of referrals to select partners (ie New York Heritage) from DPLA, counts, query strings, and referring pages.

This type of analysis may be especially useful in steering data clean-up priorities as well as identifying potential audiences (such as educators or genealogists) who might be discovering New York content through DPLA.

Questions: What data do we need to track? How can the data inform our practice and decision making? How can this data work to relieve the burdens of walk in traffic in institutions? How does it make evident the value of contributing to DPLA?

Additional Updates

Assessment next steps:
● Ongoing tracking of select partner analytics.

● Investigation of a hydra-based aggregation solution that could drive traffic from DPLA through a common portal.

● Building relationships with DPLA users in New York (ie. educators, DPLA community reps, etc.).

DPLA updates:
● DPLA has hired a new developer to work specifically on their ingest system.

● DPLAFest 2016 will be hosted in Washington DC on April 14-15th. ESDN and partners have submitted multiple presentation/panel proposals.

● ESDN will be partnering with DPLA to host some hackathons at METRO in the Spring.