This report contains copies of all the graphic charts created during the Libraries+ Network Meeting plus photos of the participants in their workgroups and plenary sessions. Here is the whole group on the stairs at New America. The graphics were created by facilitators David Sibbet and Malgosia Kostecka from The Grove Consultants International. Contact us by email: librariesplusnetwork@arl.org or on Twitter: @libsplus.
Libraries+ Network Meeting — May 8-9, 2017

WELCOME FROM UPENN, ARL, MOZILLA FOUNDATION & NEW AMERICA

Everyone gathered at New America on Monday morning for a 9:00 start to the meeting.

Kim Eke, Director of Teaching, Research and Learning Services at the University of Pennsylvania kicked off the meeting as spokesperson for the sponsoring group that planned the meeting. This included (from left to right), Denice Ross from New America, Stephanie Wright from the Mozilla Foundation, and Prue Adler from the Association for Research Libraries.

Some 65 people from dozens of organizations participated.
After the welcome, David Sibbet, as the lead facilitator, reviewed the agreed upon outcomes developed by the planning committee in several online meetings before this gathering. He then reviewed the agenda, shown here on the left. The Tuesday agenda changed a bit and is shown later. He also reviewed the roles he and Malgosia would plan and suggested some ground rules for having a successful meeting.
WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE MEETING?

Malgosia recorded the hopes that people shared in the larger group after their table discussion.

Each of the table group introduced one another and their hopes for this meeting.
Laurie Allen, Assistant Director for Digital Scholarship at the University of Pennsylvania, led the lightning talks, sharing Penn's work in data refuge and data rescue projects, as well as their storytelling work and support for community events. Each person spoke to current work (the arrow), interests (under the arrow) and challenges (along the bottom under the mountains.)

Denice Ross, Public Interest Tech Fellow at New America, talked about their work to democratize data and how they are working with police chiefs in that regard and working to understand the power of new networks.
Nancy McGovern, President of the Society of American Archivists, with M.I.T. Libraries, shared the work of the society and their efforts to support preservation of critical data.

Sayeed Choudhury, Associate Dean for Research and Data Management at Johns Hopkins University, talked about the scale of current data issues. They are tackling this as well as data rescue issues and are piloting efforts to create an open science framework.
Philip Ashlock, Chief Architect at data.gov underlined the importance of good metadata. They are working on a metadata catalog of state & local government, and public data—80% of the 100 sources are federal.

Ed Kearns, Chief Data Officer at the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, talked about data driven decision making at the challenge of authentication given the explosion of use in data supported by organizations like Google.
John Chodacki, Director of University of California Curation Center (UC3) at California Digital Library (CDL), made the plea to the room that the Libraries+ Network should define specific goals and then focus on supplementing and strengthening the great work already done at the federal level to preserve federal data.

James R. Jacobs, U.S. Government Information Librarian, Stanford University focused on Information Management Plans (IMPs), a public policy idea to get agencies to publish preservable information and data at the beginning of the lifecycle rather than the end of the lifespan.
Michael Halpern, Deputy Director of the Center for Science & Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists, shared their work to help people see the importance of protecting science and its data, and supporting policies that advocate these interests.

Stephanie Wright, Program Lead at Mozilla's Science Lab, shared about Mozilla's commitment to open data that is free and reusable.
Delphine Khanna, Head of the Digital Library Initiatives at Temple University, talked about the project “Future Proofing Civic Data,” which focuses on civic open data portals at the city or state level and explores ways libraries can support the preservation and long-term access to such data. The project is supported by a Knight Foundation grant.

Andrew Turner, Director and CTO at ESRI, shared their work with large data sets and GIS capabilities. The big challenge as he saw it is coming to see data as infrastructure.
Following the morning of lightning talks, each table had a chance to talk about the insights they drew from listening to everyone. The key ideas that were shared back in the large group were captured by Malgosia here.
S.P.O.T. ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

After sharing insights, the group as a whole identified current Strengths and Problems, Gaps & Weaknesses (shown here) as well as Opportunities and Threats (shown on the next page).

As is often the case, there were many more problems identified than things that are going well. They were initially recorded with the lists in the chart to the right, and then more was added from right to left. The ordering provides a small clue to what was on the top of everyone’s mind at this point in the meeting.

NOTE: For many years in the 1960s, this framework constituted the core of strategic planning. The idea was to build on current strengths and use the energy of identified problems to find opportunities in the near future.

David explained to the group that the value of really digging into the gaps and weaknesses is seated in the fact that it is impossible to think something is a problem without having an idea of how things could be different. So our irritations are doorways to our visions in a real sense. Rather than trying to “solve” the problems, he coached everyone to use them as springboards for opportunity identification. A way to prioritize problems is to see which are small threats. This level of analysis was not part of this meeting.
These charts reflect the many opportunities identified, on sticky notes. Threats that could result in big failures and problems in the future are shown as little storm clouds. David is shown writing down the first of the opportunities in the photo.
David asked volunteers from each table to come up to the front to sort the many opportunities that were identified into a “High-Low” grid, where opportunities promising high yields were placed high on the chart and other lower. Ones that seemed easier would go left and harder went right. He asked this group to sort these without talking, and allowing anyone to move any sticky note at any time. They did it—in about 5 minutes. This is the result.
WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO SOLVE?

The planning team suggested having an open discussion on this topic before doing any visioning. David put the central issues in the middle circle, and then graphically facilitated an open dialogue on the question. As people shared ideas, he mapped them out, lightly clustering things that seemed to go together. As the chart filled, he then stood back and asked the group to look for patterns in their thinking. It was clear that this problem ranges across a wide array of phenomena, from technical, data transmission and absorption issues to ones that are deeply rooted in human interaction and interpretation. Some advocated exploring specific topics like open access and library retention. Others felt that coming to a shared purpose was the real intent and identified the blind spots. There was widespread consensus that everyone is being drawn into new territory that is not clear yet and discussions like this were important.
David led the group to imagine coming back together in 2020 and sharing accomplishments. Staying in the past tense, imagining that all this had already been completed, the group shared what it imagined. Malgosia captured the various ideas here as the microphone passed around the large room.
As a conclusion for the first day, the group agreed on five working groups that represented a good use of everyone’s time. After several rounds of discussion, where people indicated preferences, the topics stabilized and were assigned rooms. These groups would then meet the following day to imagine what success looks like in each area, and what an action game plan might look like.
TAKEAWAYS FROM DAY ONE

At the end of the first day everyone passed the microphone and shared what they were taking away into the dinner conversations that were being arranged at different restaurants. Everyone was excited about the range and breadth of participation and attendance.

DINNER SIGN UPS

Participants signed up for the half dozen or so restaurants that had been reserved to host small groups.
DAY TWO AGENDA and REFLECTIONS

TUESDAY AGENDA

9:00  RE-ORIENTATION

9:45  REFLECTIONS ~ SETUP

10:30  WORK GROUPS (~30 minutes)

10:45  Break

12:00  LUNCH

1:00  SHARE IDEAS Gallery

2:30  Break

2:45  PARTNERSHIP PLANNING—Agreements

3:40  TAKE AWAYS

4:00  Adjourn

REFLECTIONS: DAY 2

- Inspiring! People's conversation
- Everyone would like to be there
- Unified?
- Energized!
- People are excited

- Trying to find location... Can we relate to each other?
- Let's not forget about websites...
- People of all ages make libraries work!

- Excited about people connecting
- Excited about partnerships
- Let's not isolate groups anymore!

- Pull together libraries to build on work we're doing
- Partnership
- My brain went... a good thing
- Appeal to partnerships
- Reach out to your networks

- Partnerships
- Identifying our group's North Star
WORKGROUP ORIENTATION TO GRAPHIC TEMPLATES

After morning reflections, David oriented all the workgroups to the two graphic templates each would be asked to use in imagining success in 2020, and then design an initial game plan for action for the following year. He encouraged everyone to adopt a “design thinking” frame of mind, realizing that these sketches would be just the first versions of ideas, and they would evolve as the workgroups continued after this initial meeting.

Photos from each of the workgroups are shown in the next couple of pages. They worked the remainder of the morning and in some cases into the lunch period. Each workgroup had one of the meeting organizers working as a scribe/facilitator.

Two groups met in the large plenary room, and the other three in breakout rooms throughout the New America space.

HARNESSING EXTERNAL ENERGY & STORYTELLING WORKGROUP
HIGH LEVEL SCOPING WORKGROUP

CONNECTING FEDERAL PRODUCERS & WORKFLOW WORKGROUP
PUBLIC ACCESS TO PUBLIC DATA WORKGROUP

CREATING A VIBRANT COMMUNITY WORKGROUP
Kaitlin Thaney from the Mozilla Labs presented the High Level Scope Workgroup output. They consolidated their vision work into the mission statement shown on the right and outlined the actions needed to move toward that mission in the large arrow. On each of these charts challenges are shown along the bottom, and success factors (agreements and principles—not tasks) are listed as the “wheels” on the plan.
This is the 2020 vision of the workgroup concerned about preservation & saving connections and mechanisms between federal producers and the networks at the Library+ Network Meeting.
Leslie Johnston, Director of Digital Preservation at the National Archives & Preservation Administration, presented this workgroup's output. The one year goals are shown on the right and the actions related to each one in the three streams of activities.
Sarah Wipperman, Scholarly Communications and Digital Repository Librarian at University of Pennsylvania, presented the Public Access to Public Information workshop output. They began by defining “WHAT IS ACCESS” shown on the right side of the chart above. They then imagined how all this is working in 2020.
The target on the right shows the four major goals and breaks out what is involved in each. The arrow them records actions that will move toward these goals.
Bethany Wiggin, Associate Professor of German at University of Pennsylvania, presented the output of the harnessing external energy and storytelling workshop. They began by imagining success in both 2017 and 2020, and mapped their ideas here.
This chart illustrates the goals and major actions imagined by the harnessing external energy workgroup. It flows along on two channels: one immediate in 2017 and the other longer range.
This workgroup began sharing some thoughts on sticky notes, shown to the left, and then broadened out to imagine success in 2020 with what they felt was a big goal of creating a VIBRANT COMMUNITY out of the Libraries+ effort.
Aaron Brenner, Coordinator of Digital Scholarship from the University of Pittsburgh, presented the output of the Vibrant Community work group. This will require a matrix of individual, institutions, associations, and organizations working in different roles and across public, private, government, and non-profit sectors. Their primary objectives are shown in the target, with key actions in the arrow.
During the workgroup reports David and Malgosia tracked actual offers and commitment on large sticky notes. At a final session, all these notes were reviewed for agreement and sign-ups. Names of persons who volunteered to work on various items (indicated by the red bullets) are written under the blue titles. The sticky notes record different activities and offers that were not directly discussed, but offered. The items in the talk balloons on the left of this chart records what everyone agreed was the main message of this meeting—that nearly everyone was aligned on the goals shown on the following chart.
The group as a whole agreed that the goals listed on the sticky notes to the right are ones that everyone agreed upon. David conducted a confidence check on the little index below the goals, with "10" being 100% confident in the entire group, and "0" having no confidence. The votes are written above the numbers. The center of gravity was around 8-9 in confidence! As a finale, David asked the group to express general principles that had emerged during this meeting that would guide future actions. These are written in purple to the left.
FINAL TAKEAWAYS

At the end of each day, every person in the meeting was able to take the microphone and share what they were personally taking away from the work together. Shown here is Laurie Allen, one of the organizers and Assistant Director for Digital Scholarship at the University of Pennsylvania. She and many others were extraordinarily appreciative of the breadth and depth of expertise in this group. Many commented that it was unusual to have this many different points of view involved, and to have such a spirit of collaboration and concern.

The panorama below shows the meeting room at New America where the plenary session of the meeting were held, with the graphic reports from the five working groups (that are illustrated in this report) posted around on the wall.
I AM HERE BECAUSE

This chart was posted in a common area where people at lunch and during breaks could answer the question “I am here because…”
THE ORGANIZERS

Libraries+ Network Meeting was organized by this group of collaborators from University of Pennsylvania Libraries, Association of Research Libraries (ARL), and Mozilla Foundation. Shown here from left in back is Sarah Wipperman (Penn), Elizabeth Waraksa (ARL), Kaitlin Thaney (Mozilla), Margaret Janz (Penn), and Kim Eke (Penn). In front from left is Bethany Wiggin (Penn), Prue Adler (ARL), and Laurie Allen (Penn). Michael Halpern of Union of Concerned Scientists is taking the picture.

THE FACILITATORS

Malgosia Kostecka and David Sibbet from The Grove Consultants International provided facilitation for the meeting. David was the lead facilitator with Malgosia providing graphic recording support. The Grove has been pioneers of visual facilitation since the mid 1970s and is headquartered in the Presidio area of San Francisco.