Radical Collaboration: Forward Together

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GALILEO/GUGM in Macon GA on May 16, 2019

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...radical collaboration means coming together across disparate, but engaged, domains in ways that are often unfamiliar or possibly uncomfortable...to achieve more together than we could separately.
Archives, History, and Technology: Prologue and Possibilities for SAA and the Archival Community

Roots and future of distributed digital practice
https://americanarchivist.org/doi/abs/10.17723/0360-9081-81.1.9
Digital Practice Roundtable

No head – determine together
Reset table for different needs
Add and change seats
Leverage cumulative strengths

Radical collaboration allows for greatest cumulative impact with awareness of needs and contributions of whole table
NOTE: the Dream Team refers to the ’67 Red Sox - of course
Adapt Radical Candor ...

An approach for encouraging constructive feedback

Kim Scott, www.radicalcandor.com

Explanatory video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yj9GLeNCgm4
To Radical Collaboration

An approach for encouraging Collaborative work across domains

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Working Definitions

To build and ensure shared understanding core concepts

**Collaboration**: to rely on others to do agreed upon things for or in concert with you and to be relied upon to do agreed upon things for or in concert with others

Collaboration is not:

- letting someone know what you did after you did it;
- basic information sharing with no measurable impact; or
- simply allowing someone to be present or observe without means to inform and influence
Inclusion Framework

Social and demographic inclusion
i.e., not excluded based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, or on any other characteristic or preference

Showstopper: first and foremost ensure that people are safe

Professional inclusion
People from all impacted or related professions and domains are included openly and equitably

Technical inclusion
Technical is not limited to technological
Technology (skills, tools, capabilities) should be available to all
I am an archivist and a data curator responsible for digital preservation in a library.
Archives example – words are important ...

To an archivist:

Archives:

• an **organization** that collects the records of individuals or organizations;

• professional **discipline** of administering such archival collections and organizations – adhere to **archival principles and practice** (e.g., SAA [Code of Conduct and Ethics](#))

• **building** (or portion thereof) housing archival collections

IT use of “archives” and “archiving”: often refers to **aggregations** of content, storage of content – is typically not archival from an archivist’s perspective and does not equate to preservation (more robust and collaborative concept) e.g., Twitter archives

“digital archivist” may refer to work by anyone on digitized or other digital content of any kind not someone who manages digital records

Historians and other researchers may refer to archiving to mean (see also documentation strategies) **capture, document, or record** history and milestones
Forward Together: collaborating across communities

Be sure everyone who should be or wants to be at the table is there.

Welcome unanticipated guests.

If you are in the majority, consider what inclusion looks like.

Ensure holistic communication for those not at the table.

Come to the table with questions not answers – balance inquiry and advocacy.

If you haven’t learned something at the table, sit longer, ask more questions, and continue to listen...
Forward Together: collaborating across communities

Reset the table as needed to include different perspectives and evolving issues

Never assume you’re chairing even if you sent out the invite

Value your knowledge and that of others; bring your whole self and be courageous

Prioritize the common goal over any single “right” approach
Digital Practice + Collaboration

Who would you bring to the table?

- examples of domain strengths
- round table (with no head)
- stronger together
- professional inclusion
- common interests
- overlapping members
- overlapping objectives

Who’s not at the table and why?

Archives
- provenance and context
- chain of custody

Libraries
- discovery services
- usage analytics

Digital Preservation
- preservation packages
- obsolescence management

Data Science
- data curation
- domain expertise

Oral History
- collaborative curation
- contextualized reflections

Software Development
- problem-solving
- project management

Records Management
- appraisal
- scheduling

Museums
- engagement (audiences)
- objects