A Tale of Three Libraries:

Key Factors in Successful Online Collaborative Projects

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Goals today

* Offer advice about and examples of the "key factors" that lead to success in a collaborative project

* Discuss factors that could hinder the success of a collaborative project

* Help you decide if a collaborative project is right for your library

Genesis of today's presentation

- ☀ Our project encountered a series of setbacks, structural problems, and unforeseen events that would usually doom most projects

- ☀ Yet, going on three years later, our project continues to thrive

- ☀ Why?

The Chesapeake Project

* Collaborative effort among:

  * Georgetown University Law Library
  * Maryland State Law Library
  * Virginia State Law Library

* Goal: to preserve born-digital collections

Our short history

☀ Brainchild of Robert Oakley, former director of the Georgetown University Law Library

  ☀ Strong commitment to preserving legal information

  ☀ Believed online legal information at risk

  ☀ Believed law libraries to be responsible for the preservation of born-digital legal information

The partners

- Enlisted the directors of the Maryland State Law Library and the Virginia State Law Library

- Designated as a demonstration project of the Legal Information Preservation Alliance

Obstacle 1

- Three **very different** libraries
  - Georgetown Law Library
    - One of the premier law schools in the nation
    - Two "branches": E.B. Williams and Wolff International
    - Staff of 68

  - Maryland State Law Library
    - Part of the Maryland Judiciary
    - Open to the public
    - Staff of 15

  - Virginia State Law Library
    - Part of the Virginia Judiciary
    - Serves the appellate court of Virginia
    - Staff of 4

Obstacle 2

* Loss of our visionary

  * Bob Oakley passed away before we completed our first year

* Provided the leadership, the reputation, and the vision to keep three totally unaffiliated libraries together

Obstacle 3

* Total change of preservation system and technology

    * OCLC discontinued the Digital Archive

    * Required to learn a whole new system: CONTENTdm

    * Great deal of time went into learning the old system and setting up our processes

    * Had to start all over again!

Obstacle 3: Digital Archive

	* Digital Archive ▾	Create Options ▾	Show Options ▾

Digital Archive: 0000074730 Created: LEGAL 2008-06-20

Modified: 2008-06-20

Harvested On: 2008-06-20 Ingested On: 2008-06-20

Object Composition: pdf,1 LogicalObjectSize: 2.7 MB

Title	Shortchanging America's health : a state-by-state look at how federal public health dollars are spent. 2008
Title.Alternative	Shortchanging America's health 2008
Title.Alternative	State-by-state look at how federal public health dollars are spent
Creator.Corporate	Trust for America's Health
ContentDescription.Version	June 2008
ContentDescription.Summary	[Harvested by GUL]
Publisher	Trust for America's Health
Date.Available.W3C-DTF	2008-04
ObjectLocator.Original.URI	http://healthyamericans.org/reports/shortchanging08/Shortchanging08.pdf
ObjectLocator.OCLCArchive.URI	http://digitalarchive.oclc.org/request?pid%3Dobjid%3A0000086258
DARecordLanguage.ISO639-2	eng
Language.ISO639-2	eng
OCLCIdentifier.OCLCNumber	74277992
ObjectType	Multi-type Object
LocalNote	sjr
LocalNote	PDF-1.4

Obstacle 3: ContentDM

Key factors in successful collaborative projects

* Fundamental commitment to the project goal

* Project directly tied to the library's mission

* Management commitment

* Talented project manager

* Complements current work processes

* Flexibility and creativity

* Face time

* Outcome is useful

Fundamental commitment to the project goal

* This is the key factor

* Define the goal, know what you are trying to achieve, and know **why**

Project directly tied to the library's mission

- ☀ Provides the project with a strong foundation

- ☀ Makes it a less likely target for budget cuts

- ☀ Makes it easy to focus on project's goals

Management commitment

* Chain of command must commit to the fundamental goals of the project

* Commitment is demonstrated by staffing and budget

* Collaborative projects cannot be "under the radar"

Talented project manager

* Need a savvy point person from the start

* Someone who has not been given the job of project manager as "other duty as assigned"

Project work complements current work processes

- The project needs to integrate with current library work process

- Does not require a complete re-tooling of work processes

Flexibility and creativity

* When trying anything new, everyone involved must be willing to be flexible

* Great opportunity to learn

Face time

- Communication is always key and a great deal of work can be done via email and phone

- But there is no substitute for face-to-face meeting

- Team meets every quarter

Outcome is useful

- Even if all the above items are met, unless the goal of the project is to produce something of use, it will be hard to sustain

Our accomplishments

* Harvested more than 4,000 publications!

* Available through our library catalogs, WorldCat, and Web search engines (i.e., Google)

* Estimate that approximately 1 in 7 of these publications is no longer available online within a year of harvesting

Why collaborate?

- Combine resources and talent to accomplish what seems overwhelming and impossible
- Opportunity to work with your peers
- See what "life is like" in another library
- For smaller libraries, opportunity to participate in projects that may be out of reach
- Learn, learn, learn
- Network
- Contribute
- Have fun

Take a look at our handiwork

- The Chesapeake Project
  www.LegalInfoArchive.org

LegalInfoArchive.org: Home page

Legal Information Archive
THE CHESAPEAKE PROJECT

home : browse : advanced search : preferences : my favorites : collection directory : about : help

Menu

Search
Find secondary sources of government, policy, and legal information published to the Web and archived for the future

Browse
Browse through materials archived by participating libraries without formulating a specific search

Collection Directory
View a list of collections in the Legal Information Archive

Help
Get assistance using The Chesapeake Project's Legal Information Archive

Additional Resources

Collection Plan
View the official collection plan for The Chesapeake Project's pilot digital preservation program, updated August 2008 (1.8 MB)

First-Year Pilot Project Evaluation
The Chesapeake Project's first-year project evlaution, completed in April 2008, is now available online (1.1 MB)

Copyright Information
View the copyright policy for items archived by The Chesapeake Project

Contact Us
Do you have questions about The Chesapeake Project?

Find out more about The Chesapeake Project

About The Chesapeake Project
The Chesapeake Project contains government, policy, and legal information archived by the Georgetown Law Library, the Maryland State Law Library, and the Virginia State Law Library, including:

- Reports and studies relating to U.S. government and policy
- Materials relating to public policy and legal issues in the state of Maryland
- Publications issued by Virginia's judicial branch of government
- Materials by and about the District of Columbia

The Chesapeake Project was implemented as a two-year pilot project in early 2007 by the Georgetown Law Library and the State Law Libraries of Maryland and Virginia. Today, these three libraries have expanded the archive beyond the pilot phase. Law libraries nationwide are encouraged to join this collaborative digital archive, or establish their own preservation projects, under the auspices of the Legal Information Preservation Alliance.

Georgetown Law Library | Maryland State Law Library | Virginia State Law Library | Contact us   Powered by CONTENTdm ® | ^ to top ^

LegalInfoArchive.org: Search results

Access via library catalog

Links to The Chesapeake Project

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Reforming redistricting why popular initiatives to establish redistricting commissions succeed or fail
by Nicholas Stephanopoulos; American Constitution Society.

☆☆☆☆☆
(not yet rated)

Type:	eBook : Document; English
Publisher:	[Washington, D.C.] : American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, 2007.
OCLC:	179690412
Related Subjects:	Apportionment (Election law) -- United States.	Gerrymandering -- United States.	Election districts -- United States.
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