

**SCRLC Joint Committee Meeting
Advisory Committee on Information Technologies and Services
Digitizing Advisory Committee
Monday, June 6, 2011 10:00 AM
Go2Meeting, SCRLC
Notes**

Attending: ACITS: Susan Deer, NYSHA; Rich Entlich, Cornell University; Al Oliveras, STLS; Susan Tanner, GST BOCES SLS; Ann Voorhees, CO BOCES SLS.

DAC: Bridget Bower, Ithaca College; Jean Green, Binghamton University; Laurie McFadden, Alfred University;

Guest: Sheryl Knab, WNYLRC/NYH; Staff: Mary-Carol Lindbloom; Matt Hogan; Kathleen Jackson.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the question: Should SCRLC's *Tools of History* merge with *New York Heritage*? (Members attending the joint meeting voted "yes" unanimously to recommend to the SCRLC Board of Trustees that *Tools of History* merge with *New York Heritage*).

After a technological glitch, the meeting began at 10:10 with introductions. Since RBDB funds some of the Digitizing program, members of the ACITS committee were asked to join DAC in this discussion today.

Mary-Carol covered the history of SCRLC's digitization program that led to the development and implementation of ToolsofHistory.org. Sheryl added that though the NY 3Rs approached the State Library over a decade ago regarding coordinated statewide digitization, in 2000, the NY State Library felt that a statewide digitization project would be too expensive and required each of the 3Rs to create its own digitization program.

The discussion about moving ToH to *New York Heritage* began several months ago and was discussed at the last meeting of both the DAC and the Board.

The Committees and Sheryl received a copy of the NYH Merger document ahead of the meeting, which included answers to the questions posed at the last DAC and Board meetings. Mary-Carol elaborated on the points in the Why Merge list. She explained that the term "unlimited" applies to the number of images (no limit) allowed within a maximum of 350 collections (limited). ToH is currently at level one, which allows 10,000 images or 20GB of data.

Sheryl pointed out the benefit is greatest for the end user. Presently, when a user goes into NYH and is directed into the regional site--even though they are still viewing items within the Cdm software/database—they cannot get back to NYH and must start over. She also expressed hope that once the initial merger of 5-6 Councils is complete, the remaining 3 councils will be encouraged to join.

Matthew commented that this would be beneficial to the user because they often don't recognize the geographic boundaries that each site is restricted to--searching across the boundaries at once will give richer results.

Mary-Carol stated that it can be scary to lose your local brand and seemingly your control of a project or program; however, though the brand will become NYH only, participants of the former *Tools of History* project will continue to have access to SCRLC staff and OCLC CONTENTdm support. The NYH staff will provide support to SCRLC staff for site-related issues as needed. Matthew added that the end users will experience a new interface that is *New York Heritage*, whereas the collection managers will continue to use the project client and CONTENTdm as before. Regional DAC committees will still exist for making local decisions, approving contributors, etc.

Rich remarked that on our recent membership survey, over all rankings for ToH were low, especially for the awareness, knowledge, & impression of training, instruction, and organization. He considered that in view of these negative results, a change might be indicated.

Discussion continued about advantages – WNYLRC has developed a preservation/back up system for the jpg and tif files, and the metadata – something we do not currently have, although our ToH site is backed up by our website host. NYH participants are currently working on a best practices and preservation policy; plans are underway for a format migration system.

Matthew feels that the 3Rs have built up expertise and we can all grow and learn from each other. Mary-Carol mentioned that digitizing can indeed seem like a black hole--there's a ton of stuff out there--but NYH is a discovery tool—a beacon--guiding users to more information. Matthew added that users may not be familiar with NYH, but many are using World Cat and Google, so there will be more comprehensive discovery possibilities.

Mary-Carol mentioned that digitization is part of Resource Sharing, which is core to what we do...that it is a shift to content creation to avail our unique collections in addition to the sharing of our books and journals.

Kathleen presented statistics for the number of referrals from outside URLs (not including search engines) and explained the variables. The 2nd highest number of referral links to toolsofhistory.org came from newyorkheritage.org (655 this past 12 months).

Laurie McFadden voted that move forward with this proposal. Sue Tanner indicated that “it would be a great thing to merge. All Committee members in attendance said yes to merging and were in agreement that a recommendation be made to the Board of Trustees to move forward with the merger with *New York Heritage*.”

Sheryl said she was pleased.

Mary-Carol thanked all for their time and thoughtful consideration and for Sheryl's participation.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Notes taken by Kathleen Jackson