

Laurie Arp



Job title: Director of Collections Services & Community Supported Software

Organisation: Lyrasis

Abstract:

Title: Open Source Software Models of Collaboration & Sustainability – Themes and Next Steps

Why do some community-supported open source programs seem more successful than others? Why do some live on grants while some achieve financial sustainability? What can open source program staff learn from one another? In 2017, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provided grant funding to enable LYRASIS to assess how open-source software (OSS) programs serving cultural and scientific heritage organizations attain long-term sustainability. The project assumed that while there is no single approach to sustainability, there may be common threads among programs that would lead to common needs and strategies for meeting those needs. We developed a survey and conducted a two-day forum in Baltimore in the fall of 2017, during which representatives of over 25 OSS programs discussed project lifecycles, governance, financing, resources, community building, outreach and communications, and bumps in the road. The findings have been condensed into a guidebook to be shared with the larger community. Laurie will provide an overview of the themes that emerged, discuss use cases and gather feedback on potential next steps the community can take to further sustainability across open source programs.

Bio:

Laurie Gemmill Arp has over 20 years of experience working with cultural heritage institutions. As the LYRASIS Director of Collections Services and Community Supported Software, she directs the activities of several community supported software efforts including ArchivesSpace and CollectionSpace. Laurie also directs activities related to digitization and preservation including training, consulting, the Digitization Collaborative and working with members and business partners to digitize and increase access to collections. Previously, she worked for OCLC as Senior Implementation Program Manager and Digital Projects Specialist. For the Ohio Historical Society, she served as State Archivist and managed several award-winning digital projects, including Ohio Memory and the African-American Experience in Ohio, part of the Library of Congress American Memory online resource. She received her MLIS from the University of California, Los Angeles; her MA in European History from the University of California, Irvine; and her BA in European History from the University of California, San Diego. Laurie serves as Co-Director on the IMLS funded project "It Takes a Village: Open Source Software Models of Collaboration and Sustainability"