A Tale of Three Libraries:
Key Factors in Successful Online Collaborative Projects

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Virginia State Law Library

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Maryland State Law Library

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Georgetown University Law Library
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

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Obstacle 3: ContentDM

**CONTENTdm Administration**

Current collection: Maryland State Law Library

**Edit item**

Edit metadata then click **save changes**. To remove this item from the collection, click **delete**. After making changes, you must rebuild the text index.

* Fields marked with an asterisk are required.

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*view this Item*
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

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 Projects Legal Information Archive

Additional Resources

Collection Plan
View the official collection plan for The Chesapeake Projects pilot digital preservation program, updated August 2008 (1.3 MB)

First-Year Pilot Project Evaluation
The Chesapeake Projects first year project evaluation, completed in April 2006, 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.
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Access via library catalog

Online Catalog

Search for print and online versions of treatises, form books, law reviews, task force reports, and government publications available at the library.

Maryland State Law Library

Start Over  Save To List  MARC Display  (Search History)

RECORD #  b1098637  Search

TITLE  Reforming redistricting [electronic resource] : why popular initiatives to establish redistricting commissions succeed or fail / by Nicholas Stephanopoulos.

AUTHOR  Stephanopoulos, Nicholas.


AVAILABLE ONLINE:
Connect to original electronic version
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Create a permanent link to this item


NOTE  Title from title screen (viewed Oct. 29, 2007).

"March 2007."


SYSTEM DET  Mode of access: World Wide Web.

System requirements: Adobe Acrobat Reader.

SUBJECT  Apportionment (Election law) -- United States.

Gerrymandering -- United States.

Election districts -- United States.
Links to The Chesapeake Project

Reforming Redistricting: Why Popular Initiatives To Establish Redistricting Commissions Succeed or Fail

Reform Redistricting why popular initiatives to establish redistricting commissions succeed or fail

American Constitution Society for Law and Policy

April 1, 2009

Computers in Libraries 2009
Reforming redistricting why popular initiatives to establish redistricting commissions succeed or fail
by Nicholas Stephanopoulos; American Constitution Society.

(Not yet rated)

Ebook: Document, English
OCLC: 179690412
Related Subjects: Apportionment (Election law) -- United States, Gerrymandering -- United States, Election districts -- United States.
Citations: Cite this Item | Export to EndNote | Export to RefWorks
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