Summary Thoughts and Some Questions

Presented to the DLF Forum

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Leveraging our expertise and investment to:

- share and evaluate information about digital library tools, methods, trends, and strategies to inform and help validate local digital library activities, decisions, and investments;

- share and evaluate digital library practices and experiences to gain an understanding of good practice;

- stimulate and share in necessary research and development;

- help attract external funding;

- respond quickly and effectively to digital library challenges as they arise;

- build a community of professionals appropriate to the development of digital libraries.

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A report from the front

- Kick-starting activity in key program areas as defined in http://www.clir.org/diglib/members/dlfplan.htm and including:
  - Architectures
  - Practices and best practices (data and metadata formats and their uses)
  - Digital collections
  - Use, user, user support, and user services
  - Digital preservation
  - The roles and responsibilities of the 21st century university library
- Building a communications infrastructure – can we harvest MARC?
- Some steering committee business

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On organization and its use

- What we've learned about diversity and fitness for purpose and institution
  - centralized and shared / decentralized and co-ordinated
  - integrated through core technologies
  - rarely or poorly integrated with the broader library community
- What we've missed
  - purpose (come back George Sr., all is forgiven), institution, evaluation

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Letting go to get a grip

- The digital library and its staff – sharing ownership of the digital library challenge with support services, selectors and cataloguers, but also administrative services, IT services, buildings and estates (Stanford, CDL, UVA, Michigan, Cornell, UCSD, Yale)
- The digital library and its users – leading from the rear at CDL, Stanford, UVA, Penn, Indiana, Michigan, and Yale
- The digital library and its host institution (CDL)

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Rolling projects into programs

- Starting with projects to develop core technologies and competencies (NCSU, Indiana, Penn, Yale, Michigan)

- Scaling to programs
  - digital libraries aren't just for Christmas (CDL, at NCSU, UVA, Indiana)
  - professionalizing and rationalizing practice (Chicago, Indiana, Texas, Michigan)
  - evaluating performance and quality (CDL, Texas, NYPL, Columbia, CMU, Michigan UVA, NCSU, Yale)

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On users, use, and usability

To inform
- – Public service
- – Collections development
- – Administration
- – Capacity planning

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The forum

- ## What function(s)
  - Reporting local developments (parallel tracks)
  - Thematic exploration – cross-sectoral input (plenary sessions)
  - Thematic exploration – specialist input (small, smoke-filled rooms)
- ## What frequency
- ## What size

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And if that isn't enough…

- Information sharing and empowerment or biodiversity in a digital library ecology

Thanks and more

- To our speakers for their time, their contributions, and their honesty about both cheese and cheeselessness
- To our organizers and hosts
- To a mentor now departing

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