

National Heritage Digitization Strategy Steering Committee

Minutes

Friday, May 17, 2019, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Eastern Time

Chair: Paul Takala

Present

Clare Appavoo, Canadian Research Knowledge Network
Jonathan Bengtson, Canadian Association of Research Libraries
Guy Berthiaume, Library and Archives Canada
Paul Durand, Canadian Museum of History
Loren Fantin, OurDigitalWorld Organization
Émilie Fortin, Bibliothèque de l'Université Laval
Christopher Hives, University of British Columbia Archives
Andrea Mills, Internet Archive
Lisa Miniaci, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec
Michael Moosberger, Dalhousie University
Kathryn Rose, Memorial University of Newfoundland
Kathryn Ruddock, University of Calgary
Paul Takala, Hamilton Public Library

Regrets

David Alexander, Royal BC Museum
Ern Bieman, Canadian Heritage Information Network
Sarah Dupont, University of British Columbia Library
Geoffrey Harder, University of Alberta
Allison Lennox, Toronto Public Library
Gilles Lesage, La Société historique de Saint-Boniface
Loryl MacDonald, University of Toronto Libraries
Katherine McColgan, Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Heather Menzies, The Writers' Union of Canada
Carole Urbain, Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation

Secretariat

Caitlin Horrall, Library and Archives Canada
Kat Timms, Library and Archives Canada

1. AGENDA AND MINUTES (Chair)

The Chair asked if there were any additions to the agenda; there were none.

The Chair then asked if there were any corrections for the April minutes; there were none. G. Berthiaume provided a motion to approve, and P. Durand seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

2. NEW CHAIR ORIENTATION (Chair)

The Chair described how he has been orienting himself to his new role as Chair and would continue to do so over the coming months. For instance, he plans to talk with individual Steering Committee members to learn more about their institutional contexts, experiences, and ideas for the future of the NHDS. He asked that members review questions he recently emailed in preparation for these discussions.

3. WORKING GROUP UPDATES (A. Mills, K. Ruddock, J. Bengtson)

Technical Working Group

The group met on May 14. A. Mills provided updates as follows:

- 1) In response to a call to nominate new members to RightsStatements.org working groups from NHDS, several individuals expressed interest. Two names will be forwarded: S. Severson (University of Alberta), for the International Rights Statements Working Group; S. Adler (CRKN), for the Technical Working Group. A community of practice will be established to accommodate others who expressed interest. Members of the Technical Working Group, or anyone else who is interested, would be welcome to participate on this group.
- 2) K. Timms, member of the Technical Working Group, will be undertaking a research project investigating RightsStatements.org use in Canada. Comments on her draft proposal are welcome.
- 3) Regarding the proposed Metadata Summit, a sub-group of the Technical Working Group has drafted a proposal for an event to be held in Ottawa. The goal of the event is to bring together professionals from across the galleries, libraries, archives and museums (GLAM) sectors to discuss common issues concerning metadata, to learn from each other, and to foster implementation of a collaborative Canadian strategy for enabling discovery of digitized Canadian heritage. An agenda has been drafted comprising a mix of keynote speakers, panel discussions and workshops. The current budget is \$25,000 and the group may choose to submit a proposal for a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant to support the event. The Steering Committee was supportive of the event, encouraging planning to continue.

ACTION

Technical Working Group Co-Chairs will respond to nominees of the RightsStatements.org Working Groups; share the draft research proposal on RightsStatements.org; and, share the draft Metadata Summit proposal.

Content Working Group

J. Bengtson mentioned that some work had been recently done to revise the draft Content Strategy, particularly to improve its language with respect to diversity and inclusion.

The Content Working Group remains unclear of its mandate and operations, however, and would appreciate guidance from the Steering Committee. This extends to questions concerning the purpose and direction of the content strategy. Is it only intended to guide funding decisions when funding is available, or might it have a broader purpose?

The Chair mentioned that he will be working on drafting the 2019/2020 business plan with the Corporate Secretary, which might help provide guidance to the Content Working Group on its mandate and activities.

In the meantime, the Content Working Group could reconvene to continue discussions around the draft Content Strategy.

ACTION

Content Working Group will arrange a meeting to continue discussion of the draft Content Strategy.

4. PRESENTATION AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE ARCHIVES ASSOCIATION OF QUÉBEC (Secretariat)

The Corporate Secretary and C. Urbain, with help from P. Durand, will be presenting on the NHDS at the annual Association of Archivists of Québec (AAQ) conference in Gatineau in early June. The presentation will provide an overview of the NHDS.

G. Berthiaume mentioned that, while there is no presentation specific to NHDS at the upcoming Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) Conference in Toronto in early June, it will be included as part of a "LAC update" session.

L. Fantin suggested proposing a presentation on NHDS for the next Ontario Library Association (OLA) conference in February 2020.

ACTION

Corporate Secretary will circulate AAQ presentation to Steering Committee members.

L. Fantin will contact Corporate Secretary regarding a NHDS proposal for the OLA conference.

5. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS (Various)

G. Berthiaume mentioned that, at the last Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) board meeting, issues concerning the challenges of submitting Canadian proposals to the Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives programme were discussed, as were options for expanding the programme. However, given staff changes at the Mellon Foundation, which provides funds for this programme, no changes to the administration of the Digitizing Hidden Special Collections programme are anticipated in the near future.

Both G. Berthiaume and L. Fantin spoke about the recent GLAM Summit held in Montréal. Roughly 300 people were in attendance. While the agenda was not specific to the NHDS, it does demonstrate interest in working together across the GLAM sector. L. Fantin mentioned that Oxford Economics is undertaking a study on the value of GLAMs and presented preliminary findings. This type of effort may help the NHDS to substantiate impact of digitized collections being available, or NHDS could consider undertaking a similar study in the Canadian context.

6. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS AND FURTHER BUSINESS (Secretariat)

The Corporate Secretary mentioned that Steering Committee member H. Menzies wrote an article on the NHDS in the Writers Union of Canada newsletter. Unfortunately the digital edition is only sharable among Union members.

She also noted that the European Union (EU) Commission completed a survey of Europeana and that some results may be of interest to NHDS members.

ACTION

Corporate Secretary will share link to EU Commission presentation on Europeana survey.

The Chair noted the next Steering Committee meeting will be Friday, June 14 at 1 p.m. ET.

The meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m. ET.