



NY 3Rs ASSOCIATION, INC.
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I2NY 2015 Summit
Final Report – Executive Summary
Sponsored by the NY 3Rs Association, Inc.
May 11 and 12, 2015, Gideon Putnam Resort, Saratoga Springs, NY

Introduction

On May 11-12, 2015, representatives from libraries of all types met in Saratoga Springs, New York for the Second Information Infrastructure for New York Summit (I2NY Summit 2015). The I2NY Summit 2015, like the first Summit held in 2012, was sponsored by the NY 3Rs Association, Inc.

I2NY Summit 2015 was an opportunity to review and assess accomplishments of the I2NY groups that worked on the six original initiatives developed at Summit 2012 to strengthen the infrastructure for the creation, dissemination, and storage of information throughout the state:

- Development of a Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) service hub for New York State
- E-resource enhanced access
- Library as Publisher
- Assessment and return on investment
- Communications clearinghouse
- Staffing enhancements

I2NY Summit 2015 was also an opportunity to identify important initiatives currently under development at New York institutions, discuss related collaborative services and projects since the first Summit was held, and focus on new projects to meet current information needs within the state.

Summit Structure

I2NY Summit 2015 included reports from the six original priorities and presentations on four ongoing projects or topics of interest:

- New York EAD (Encoded Archival Description) Project
- Empire Shared Collection
- New York Historic Newspapers Project
- State-Wide Catalog: Developing a Roadmap

Guest speakers were:

- **Micah May**, Director of Business Development at the New York Public Library, presenting on the development of a National Digital E-Content platform.
- **Peter Morville** of Semantics Studio, presenting on “The Architecture of Understanding.” Morville spoke about information architecture, organizational governance, methods, and metrics, and systems thinking.
- **Nate Hill**, Deputy Director of the Chattanooga Public Library (CPL), and recently-selected new Executive Director of the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO), presenting on “Open

Data and Libraries: Mapping Partnership Opportunities.” Hill described the work which is happening at CPL in a civic laboratory, gigabit laboratory, and public access makerspace to curate and interpret open data information, particularly from the city and county level.

[The presentations on all of these topics, as well as additional lightning round presentations and the slides from the keynote and guest speakers, are available at: [http://www.ny3rs.org/i2ny-2015/.](http://www.ny3rs.org/i2ny-2015/)]

Determining the Direction Forward

After review, discussion and brainstorming, Summit 2015 participants prioritized the various current and potential projects to determine what was of greatest importance to a New York infrastructure *and* had the highest chance of success.

[Notes from the breakout groups, as well as from other discussions are available in Appendix 1 of the complete I2NY Summit 2015 Final Report available at: [http://www.ny3rs.org/i2ny/.](http://www.ny3rs.org/i2ny/)]

Like the 2012 Summit, participants were asked to vote on which of the original six initiatives should go forward, and which of four new ideas should receive priority to move forward as well. The voting tally is as follows:

Votes on Original Initiatives

- Empire State Digital Network – will continue – not voted on
- Library Assessment and Return on Investment – 13 votes
- E-Resources: Enhancing Access to Research Databases – 13 votes
- Library as Publisher – 11 votes
- Communications Clearinghouse – 3 votes
- Staffing Innovations – 2 votes

Votes on New Ideas/Initiatives

- E-Book Platform – 19 votes
- Open Source/Tech Infrastructure – 18 votes
- Statewide Catalog – 7 votes
- Mapping/Marketing/One Voice – 5 votes

Strategies

The NY 3Rs Association, which has facilitated all of the I2NY groups, met in late May to consider next steps. Besides the outcomes of the 2012 and 2015 Summits, the current needs in the library, archival, and cultural heritage communities, and the strengths and abilities of the NY 3Rs were taken into consideration. Based on their analysis, the NY 3Rs proposes to proceed as follows:

Continue the following initiatives:

- **The Empire State Digital Network**, an original idea from the 2012 meeting, has been implemented in New York through the NY 3Rs Association with METRO as the central administrative site. The project has become well-established and successful in New York State, and is recognized as one of the model Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) hubs in the country. Because of its continued momentum and growth, this initiative was not voted on as it is planned to continue into the future. However, ideas and discussions during the Summit meeting on sustainability for the ESDN project should be further studied by those working directly on the program in consultation with the NY 3Rs.
- **Library Assessment and Return on Investment:** Around the country, both national and state associations, as well as individual institutions, are involved in assessing the strengths of their services and needs of their constituents. To stand out in the field of organizations tackling these issues, it is strongly suggested that the NY 3Rs Councils work in collaboration with other groups such as SUNY and CUNY to develop assessment and ROI-related projects which will have a direct impact on the libraries, archives, and cultural heritage institutions within New York. Once the ideas are planned, implementation, whether on a statewide, county, or city level, will be easier as the program continues to grow.
- **E-Resources:** Several components envisioned in the 2012 Summit have been realized. This initiative will continue to move forward with enhancements or improvements as needed to the E-Resources Manifesto, the Licensing Toolkit, and the continuation of investigation into database pricing.
- **Library as Publisher:** This project has achieved some results which could be useful on a national scale – the webinars on related projects, and the grant program. The NY 3Rs will continue to develop this initiative.

Implement immediately the following initiative:

- **Technical Infrastructure/Open Source:** This was a very active discussion group, and the ideas from the group received a good number of votes. A primary activity is to create a code4lib group in New York State – a collective forum of technical experts. Their collective talents can assist the library community in overcoming the barriers and challenges in improving the statewide infrastructure improving upon the tools and services we already employ or by creating those that fill a niche or need. The NY 3Rs supports the goals, activities, and events developed by this group.

Further investigate two initiatives:

- **National E-Book Platform:** This project is already receiving national attention. Work on this initiative in New York State was one of the most highly-rated projects discussed at the 2015 Summit. The NY 3Rs will explore this project further and investigate how it can have specific benefits to the residents of New York State, and members of the NY 3Rs. One idea is that this activity could be a sub-project of the already-successful E-Resources Working Group, which has

established a number of tools and resources since 2012, such as the Manifesto and Licensing Toolkit.

- **New York Statewide Catalog:** While the need for a Statewide Catalog or other unified discovery method is strong, this new initiative was not a top vote-getter. It was suggested that the key is improving discoverability in Google, rather than creating a new tool. The large scope of the project and the complexities of statewide resource sharing are challenges. The NY 3Rs will continue the conversation.

Do not proceed with – or modify the focus – of two of the initiatives:

- **Communications Clearinghouse:** The ongoing sustainability of such a clearinghouse was deemed cumbersome by Summit participants. Therefore the NY 3Rs will discontinue the communications clearinghouse initiative as originally designed. Instead the NY 3Rs will work in collaboration with the New York Library Association, the State Library and other organizations that serve libraries, archives, and their staff to seek ways to improve communication using existing channels.
- **Staffing Innovations:** This initiative has two distinct pieces: innovative staffing and professional development. Due to the complexity of New York State labor laws as well as the intricacies of staffing at member libraries, the NY 3Rs will not be continuing the innovative staffing piece at this time. Professional development is provided by several organizations throughout the state, including the NY 3Rs. The NY 3Rs CE Task Force will continue to monitor professional development opportunities.

Next Steps

The NY 3Rs Association will continue to work with the I2NY working groups whose initiatives are ongoing, and establish new working groups for the new initiatives. Suggestions from the I2NY Summit 2015 will be shared with the working groups. NY 3Rs will work with the groups whose initiatives are not continued or whose focus is changed as these groups refocus or move on to new area. An internal group of the NY 3Rs will investigate the two initiatives identified as needing further investigation and will convene working groups.

The NY 3Rs thanks everyone who participated in the 2015 Summit – from presenters to audience participants. We appreciate the continued support from librarians, library staff and archivists from our member institutions. It is critical to collaboratively improving and enhancing library and archival services across New York State.