

John F. Helmer Professional Development Award Application

Project Title: Capacity Building for Digital Privacy

Project Leaders

Kelly McElroy, Oregon State University, kelly.mcelroy@oregonstate.edu

Madison Sullivan, University of Washington, madds@uw.edu

Project Description

Digital privacy and security are issues of growing and ongoing concern in libraries, in higher education, and more broadly in society. The interconnectedness of data through systems ranging from course management software to subscription databases presents new and evolving challenges. While there have long been discussions about the need for an Alliance-wide Data Sharing MOU (www.orbiscascade.org/data-sharing), there is also the issue of surfacing a shared understanding of user data and privacy across institutions. Are there opportunities for Alliance member institutions to develop a reconciliation of policies and practices around educating and training library workers about user privacy and why it matters?

We propose a pilot series of train-the-trainer sessions to prepare staff from Alliance member institutions to better address issues of digital privacy and security and to seed next steps for collaborations on these topics across the Alliance. Because these issues touch all aspects of library work, we seek to bring together people from diverse areas, including public services, e-resources, and emerging technologies. Digital privacy and security are everyone's work.

This work builds on the existing work we have done at the University of Washington and Oregon State University. At UW, Madison Sullivan and the Digital Safety Group have collaborated on developing digital privacy workshops and outreach events for library workers and UW students since 2017. At Oregon State, Kelly McElroy has been part of the first cohort of the Library Freedom Institute, a six-monthlong IMLS-funded professional development program training librarians to train other library workers on issues of digital privacy and security. Rather than develop a curriculum entirely from scratch, we will build on existing teaching materials from our work. This also models the type of information sharing participants will be expected to do when they return to their institutions. Rather than bring in an external expert, we wish to build on the existing knowledge within the Alliance: part of our initial curriculum development will involve surveying members about their concerns and priorities on these issues as well as surfacing experts already doing this work at their institutions. We suspect that other Alliance members are doing similar work, which even their own colleagues may not be aware of -- even in writing this proposal, both of us has renewed connections across unit lines within our own institutions.

We will pilot a daylong session, consisting of a morning workshop addressing specific topics, and an afternoon of "unconference"-like sessions where participants can connect with peers with similar interests. We aim to foster a community of practice within the Alliance, across institutions, regions, and types of work.

Learning objectives for the sessions will be as follows:

- Participants will practice harm reduction approaches to teaching digital privacy and security in order to teach their colleagues and library users about these issues.
- Participants will be able to identify issues of digital privacy and security in their and their institution's work in order to identify areas of needed learning and development.
- Participants will connect with allies in their own institution and across the Alliance in order to collaborate on future work.

The pilot sessions will include three sessions, in order to be available to the widest range of participants. Two will be in-person, offered at the University of Washington and through Oregon State University at the Portland building. The third will be offered virtually. Recognizing that issues of digital privacy and security often replicate existing structural oppression, we are requesting funding for scholarships for attendance from participants who are geographically isolated, lack institutional financial support, or face other barriers to participation. We aim to find willing participants from at least 3/4 of the member institutions, and across roles: while we work in public services, we will recruit participants from all relevant areas of library work, so that the right people are in the room.

We have sketched out the following timeline:

- January - March 2019: Curriculum compilation and development
- April or May: First session
- May-June: Revisions to curriculum as needed
- June or August: Second session, followed by revisions to curriculum as needed
- September or October: Third session -- offered virtually
- November-December: Final assessment and reporting, including follow-up survey of all participants to date

We wish to thank colleagues at UW, OSU, and in the broader library community for their support developing this idea. Specific thanks are due to: Jennifer Ward, the UW Libraries Digital Safety Group, Alison Macrina and the 2018 cohort of the Library Freedom Institute, the members of the Emerging Technology department at OSU.

Connection to the Alliance Strategic Plan

This work explicitly supports the Alliance Strategic Plan:

- Strengthen Member Institutions
 - *Build member staff capacity to address challenges through innovative practices* -- By focusing on concepts including threat modeling and harm reduction, we will be teaching processes that can be applied to widely different challenges. We will be building the skills for staff to address privacy and security issues as they arise.
 - *Coordinate and leverage expertise within individual member institutions for shared benefit* -- This project will give both of us space to further deepen our expertise through sharing it with other member staff -- who will then share it with their own staff.

Budget

The budget for these three events consists of travel sponsorship for participants. Use of UW and OSU facilities for the in-person trainings will be donated in-kind; similarly, existing technologies (including Webex and Canvas) will be donated in-kind to host the virtual session. Should we receive the award, we will seek additional sponsorship for refreshments for participants -- otherwise, lunch will be on their own.

Travel expenses for Kelly and Madison	\$0	Donated by OSU and UW
Travel scholarships for participants	\$2000	
Facilities	\$0	Donated by OSU and UW
Technology for web event	\$0	Donated by OSU and UW
Total expenses	-\$2,000	

Helmer Award	\$2,000
Total funds	\$2,000

Marketing and Outreach Plan

The curriculum will be built in part with the results from an Alliance member survey regarding current digital privacy concerns and priorities. This will be our first opportunity to introduce Alliance member institutions to the project. We plan to publicize the project and the three pilot sessions by reaching out to Alliance member institutions directly, through relevant email listservs, and library-related social media channels. When possible, the project team will publicize the sessions at local and regional conferences such as ACRL-PNW, Online Northwest, and the OLA/WLA joint conference. The project team will create a digital resource (either a website or LibGuide) that details the sessions including information regarding curriculum and what participants can expect and takeaway from the experience should they participate. This same digital resource will also be a space to share openly-licensed curriculum and learning materials as a toolkit for other librarians to use and adapt at their institutions.

Letters of support

Please find attached letters of support from Faye Chadwell and Betsy Wilson.