The Power of Consortial Collaboration

Pam Jones, CNY Executive Director

The market consolidation of library technology over the past few years has narrowed the options in library technology and proprietary content. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to have the capacity to develop tools that provide consortia and their members with more control over the development of library technology? Enter a group of consortia leaders looking to cultivate agency in the development of software. The following open source products are currently in development by consortia for consortia, with funding from IMLS:

- Project ReShare
- CC-PLUS (Consortia Collaborating on a Platform for Library Usage Statistics)
- Institutional Repositories: Islandora and Hyku

Sarah and I are not only following the work of the consortia taking the lead on these products, but we are both involved with the development of CC-PLUS, me as an Advisory Board member and Sarah as the co-chair for the Product Management Committee. You can read more about the latest work of the group here: http://www.palci.org/cc-plus-news/

This is the first time I have been involved with the development of open source software, and I am learning a lot about it as I go. It will be interesting to watch how the coding communities grow for these projects and see where they go. Sarah and I will keep you informed!

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Pam and I are both involved in cross-consortia projects outside the bounds of CNY. There are many good reasons to participate in these types of initiatives, but our main focus is always on expanding access to resources, improving services, and bringing new opportunities to CNY.

In the scheme of things, we are a small consortium and our particular makeup, funding structure, and governance make us unique - then again, all consortia are more less unique. As I mentioned in a previous write up, “once you know one consortium… you know one consortium.” Being involved in multi-consortia projects allows us to bring our perspective to the development table and also push for features that will be of use to both you at the institutional level, and Pam and I at the consortial level.

As Pam highlighted in her column, we are both currently working with CC-PLUS on the development of their platform for usage statistics. To say that I’m excited about the possibilities for this platform would be an understatement; I am thrilled to be working with the CC-PLUS Product Management Committee. What I can share at present is somewhat limited, but I want to provide you with a brief overview and solicit your feedback, especially since many of you have indicated that e-resources management is a continued pain point.

The ultimate goal of CC-PLUS is to produce an open-source platform that will enable consortia and libraries to manage their usage data, automate data harvesting, and make data-informed decisions regarding e-resources from journals to database subscriptions and all things in between. The Product Management Committee is focusing on COUNTER Release 5 and has chosen Oxford University Press and ScienceDirect/Elsevier as the first vendors we will work with since they are currently R5 compliant.

So now the questions: if you had access to a usage statistics platform like CC-PLUS, what would be the most important functionality for it to have? What would you expect that it be able to do with all of this data? How would you anticipate using software like this? And perhaps most importantly, what sort of questions or problems would you like this to be able to help you solve?

Please email me with your thoughts! Understanding the needs of our community will help make me a more effective representative for CNY.

- Sarah
EMPOWERING COMMUNITY THROUGH COLLABORATION

Pickup Anywhere Update
The Pickup Anywhere for INN-Reach module was successfully implemented and is currently live for the following institutions as of May 22nd:

- Adelphi University
- Bard College
- Canisius College
- Le Moyne College
- Marist College
- Medaille College
- Pace University
- Pratt Institute
- RPI
- RIT
- St. Lawrence University
- Vassar College

Information about Pickup Anywhere is available on the CNY website: [www.connectny.org/for-staff](http://www.connectny.org/for-staff). Please email Sarah Probst (sprobst@connectny.org) for PUA Processing and setup manuals. Documentation is system specific; please specify Sierra, Millennium, or RSB in your email.

Group testing of PUA will begin in mid-June. Anyone not currently on the project Basecamp should email Sarah to be added.

CNY Knowledge Share
Have useful tips for MarcEdit? Want to discuss vendor negotiation strategies? Need recommendations on electronic resources management? Thursday afternoons this summer are for community skill sharing!

I’ll start off with two sessions that cover some of the tools I use on a regular basis. The sessions will be relatively informal, but all attendees will come away with a list of free tools and some tricks for using them!

Reach out to me (sprobst@connectny.org) if you are interested in facilitating a discussion, presenting your research, or have a suggestion for a topic. Sessions can be between 30 minutes to an hour long. Webinars will utilize the CNY GoToMeeting account and can be recorded.

Schedule
- **Thursday, June 27th at 1:00pm**
  - [Free Online Design Tools & How to Use Them](https://tinyurl.com/designtoolsreg)
    - Covering: Canva, Pixlr, Vectr, Pixabay, Paletton, and more
    - Register here: [https://tinyurl.com/designtoolsreg](https://tinyurl.com/designtoolsreg)
- **Thursday, July 11th at 1:00pm**
  - [Free Online Project Management Tools](https://tinyurl.com/projmanagereg)
    - Covering: Trello, ClickUp, Slack, Bitbucket, Doodle, and more
    - Register here: [https://tinyurl.com/projmanagereg](https://tinyurl.com/projmanagereg)