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Picking Up the Slack: Creating Feedback & Idea Creation Networks for Librarians at Different Institutions

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PICKING UP THE SLACK:
Creating Feedback & Idea Creation Networks for Librarians at Different Institutions

Erica England: Washington State University
Jennifer Pate: University of North Alabama
James Gilbreath: University of Alabama
Alex Boucher: University of Alabama
Karlie Johnson: Jacksonville State University
Katherine Eastman: ADA Developers Academy
This is us.....
And fortunately this is also us.....
Why bother?

- Helps to avoid institutional groupthink
- Creates an idea stealing/sharing network that evolves and grows as you come into contact with new people and new ideas.
Communication tools: Slack, Messenger, Skype, & emails, emails, emails
Collaboration & project management tools

- Padlet
- Asana
- Trello
Overlapping tools

- Slack
- Email
- Google Products
Jen & Erica: from conference presentations to book proposals

- Worked closely on projects at UA and had presentations in the pipeline when Erica left
- Continued working together on various projects:
  - ALLA presentation
  - ALA poster
  - Book proposal
Jen & Karlie: from poster presentation to research study

- Both moved to smaller state schools and it sparked idea for poster at annual state conference
- From the presentation at conference grew idea of research project
- Realized project would need additional input so contacted 2 former colleagues, one in Illinois and the other in Vermont, to partner with them
- Research project collab led to ACRL panel presentation submission
• Worked closely on the QEP experiential learning project while all still at UA
• Poster had been accepted before Erica left, so began working on it
• One of our earliest networking collabs
• For this collab, we were still fairly new to what was available via collaboration tools so we stuck with the tried & true (aka Google Drive and Docs)
Karlie & Alex: LITA stuff & things

- Collaborated with UNC Greensboro colleague that used to work at UA
- Two part collaboration: poster & panel presentation
- Tools used: email, Google Docs & Drive, Skype, and good old fashioned phone calls
Topical Subjects Sources as Catalyst for Inquiry-Based Learning

Karlie Johnson – Jacksonville State University,
Katherine Eastman – University of Alabama,
and
James Gilbreath – University of Alabama

Deposited 5/4/2018

Citation of published version:

Biased Against Apathy:
Harnessing Curiosity and Knowledge Gaps in Source Analysis

Katherine Eastman – University of Alabama,
James Gilbreath – University of Alabama,
and
Karlie Johnson – Jacksonville State University

Deposited 5/4/2018

Citation of published version:
Eastman, K., Gilbreath, J., & Johnson, K. (2018). Biased against apathy: Harnessing...
Kat & James: LOEX presentation

- Collaborated while at different institutions
- An initial project with planned future research
- Tools used: Slack, Google Docs & Drive, Mendeley

**THE CREDIBLE HULK**

SMASHING STUDENT EXPECTATIONS THROUGH INSTRUCTOR CREDIBILITY

JAMES N. GILBREATH AND KATHERINE S. EASTMAN
Jen, Karlie, James & Alex: ALLA presentation

- "Caucusing with Your Colleagues: Sharing Ideas to Create Effective Outreach Strategies"
- Collaborated with colleague at Jacksonville State
- Tools used: Email, Google Docs & Drive
Idea sharing
Lessons learned: Communication

- There is no such thing as a perfect communication platform
- Context is everything, and each tool is useful in supplementary ways
Lessons learned: Collaboration & project management

- Use what works for you
- Beware the learning curve
- Juggling tools
- Different tools for different environments
- “Do not use technology just for technology’s sake.”
Lessons learned 2: organization matters
Looking to the future
Create your own “Feedback & Idea Creation Networks”

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QUESTIONS?
AND SCENE....
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Ron Swanson:
https://giphy.com/gifs/parks-and-recreation-ron-swanson-whats-your-point-we3xXKFa8Afi8

Too Many Cooks: