

South Carolina Digital Library

Stakeholders' Summit

November 14, 2007

Columbia, SC

Summary Report

The South Carolina Digital Library faces a host of changes and challenges in the coming new year. The Stakeholders' Summit on November 14th has demonstrated that many of the cultural institutions in South Carolina support the efforts of the SCDL staff, but many of them also observe that organizational gaps exist in the program that could eventually undermine any goals of future sustainability. The recommendations presented in this report aim to address those organizational issues, as well as demonstrate that SCDL actively seeks to collaborate with other institutions to develop a statewide digital library that benefits education, students, the public, and our state, nation, and world at large.

Next Steps

Dr. Graham's presentation and the following discussion led to a number of ideas about what direction the South Carolina Digital Library should take. At the end of the day, the staff targeted four areas that need to be addressed in the coming year:

1) Committees

Much of the discussion at the stakeholders' summit revolved around the creation of some type of steering committee. After much thought and consideration of the ideas brought up by the attendees, it has been determined by SCDL staff that an executive committee needs to be formed, 11-13 members in size, that includes representatives from large and small universities, archives, museums, small cultural institutions, state government, state broadcast agencies, and historical and arts societies. Once a list of potential candidates has been drafted, they will be contacted and invited for a discussion of how to best form the executive committee and possibly develop a draft of committee by-laws. This committee would be responsible for determining what avenues SCDL should follow in terms of acquiring sustainable funding and capacity.

Reporting to this committee will be an advisory board composed of each Working Group chairperson. The members of this advisory board will elect a spokesperson to report to the executive committee and SCDL staff about the findings of the Working Groups. Creating a hierarchical structure through these committees would lead to greater accountability on the part of the Working Groups and their members.

2) Statewide Survey

Given the interest by Dr. Samantha Hastings about providing resources to conduct a statewide survey of cultural heritage materials in South Carolina, SCDL will attempt to coordinate with Dr. Hastings, USC's School of Library and Information Science, and Dr. Jennifer Marshall to develop a plan that explores the possibility of conducting this survey with the aid of USC SLIS and graduate students under the direction of Dr. Marshall. While this survey will be useful to determine a collection policy for future projects undertaken by SCDL, current projects and projects that are presented to SCDL staff in the near future should not be put on hold because of the vast amount of time involved in conducting a statewide survey.

3) Working Groups

Members of the current task forces will be notified that more permanent Working Groups will be established this winter. Those members will be asked if they want to continue their involvement with the Working Groups, and notified of the possibility of a Working

Group Advisory Board that reports to the Executive Committee. Some of the current task forces may not evolve into Working Groups since their tasks have been completed this year.

4) Role of State Library

SCDL staff will continue contact with State Librarian David Goble to determine if it is feasible for the South Carolina Digital Library to be incorporated by the State Library. Other issues of the support and sustainability of SCDL will also be presented to Mr. Goble this winter. The State Library's role in SCDL's K-12 program will also need to be assessed.