The Benefits of Cross-Institutional Collaboration

Maria Rogers, DBS and Keith Brittle, NCI

DBS Annual Library Seminar
13 June 2014
What is Collaboration?

(Gadja, 2004 cited in Kaufman, 2012; Shepard, 2004)
A collaborative relationship...

- shared commitment
- clearly articulated goals, roles & responsibilities
- workload balance
- leadership – fair & equitably distributed
- accountability
- shared “resources and rewards”
- open communication

(Shepard, 2004)
Selection & Benefits of Collaborations

Networking is the first step
- building relationships
- identifying common goals / specific areas of expertise

Meaningful collaborations take “time and energy, and money to establish and sustain…” (Kaufman, 2012, p. 57).

Why bother?

“Benefits are not only economic; they are also related to the information, education, cultural and social needs of the clientele.” (Shepard, 2004) – University of Waterloo, Canada

“To make big improvements in productivity and customer service, people in an organization must collaborate across corporate hierarchies, functions, companies, and geographies” (Power, 2011).
“Academic development has a history of meaningful, intentional collaboration and partnerships that reflect the values of the academic community.”

(O’Farrell, 2014, pp. 244-245)
International and National Networks & Projects

• International
  ◦ International Consortium for Education Development (IECD)
  ◦ European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU)

• Ireland
  ◦ HEA 2013 Report on ‘system reconfiguration, inter-institutional collaboration and system governance’
  ◦ All Ireland Society for Higher Education (AISHE) - society member of IECD
  ◦ Educational Developers in Ireland Network (EDIN)
  ◦ National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning
  ◦ TCD-UCD Innovation Alliance
  ◦ RIAN
Collaboration in Academic Libraries

• Long tradition
  ◦ ILLs
  ◦ shared catalogues / catalogue records
  ◦ “consortia to leverage negotiating power”
  ◦ shared storage
  ◦ active participants and proponents of the open-access movement
  ◦ advocacy
  ◦ training and CPD

➢ Dedicated Journal: Collaborative Librarianship
   http://www.collaborativelibrarianship.org/

“…the ways in which libraries work together must deepen, and the partners with whom they choose to work must broaden. Libraries and their partners must get cozier than they have ever been before.”

(Kaufman, 2012, p. 54)
Collaborative Initiatives & Networks

- Copac
- CONSORTIUM OF NATIONAL & UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
- LIR|group
- Irish Research eLibrary
- ANLTC
- A&SL
- OPEN ACCESS
- creative commons
Collaboration in the Private College Sector: from competitors to collaborators

Perceived Barriers to Collaboration

- Smaller scale
- No access to public funding
- Traditionally seen as competitors

Changes within in HE / Private Colleges

- Primarily QQI Accredited Programmes
- Private colleges now have access to public funds via Springboard and Momentum programmes

“Nearly 40% of Springboard provision and 25% of ICT conversion places are in private colleges.” (HEA, 2014, p. 85)

“The potential for developing the role of private providers, both through the allocation of public funding to private and public institutions alike and through their increasing competitiveness as student contributions in public institutions increase” – in maintaining and advancing diversity in the HE sector in Ireland. (HEA, 2014, p. 80)
Higher Education Colleges Association Ireland (HECA)

- Formed in 1991.
- HECA members must currently deliver a Level 7 (upwards) degree suitably aligned with the Irish National Framework of Qualifications.
- Central voice for Private Colleges on a national level.

Members include:
- DBS
- Griffith College
- Hibernia College
- IBAT
- Institute of Physical Therapy & Applied Sciences
New Opportunities for DBS Library

- Networking
  - HECA, LAI, CILIP, NPD, etc.
- ‘Open Source’ software implementation
  - Loughborough University: LORLS
- Staff Exchange / Site Visits
  - NCI
- Annual DBS Library Seminar
- Research & publishing opportunities?
DBS Library – innovations & aspirations

Lone Rangers
- RFID
- Koha
- Institutional Repository
- Embedding IL

Collaborations
- Reading List software ✓
- eSubmissions?
- Staff Development / CPD?

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.
- Helen Keller
Why DBS & NCI?

• Similarities
  - student population numbers
  - wide demographic of learners
  - course delivery, holdings
  - evolution
  - programme development
  - location
  - subject areas
Beginnings & Staff Exchanges

- Original contact – RFID Project

Since then….

- Ongoing informal contact
- Reciprocal staff visits – January 2014
- Equivalent staff liaison
- Ongoing contact – remote and on-site
Common Areas of Interest

- The institutional repositories (principally the issue of e-submissions)
- The sharing and comparing of our information literacy programmes
- Library Management Systems (Koha in DBS)
- The sharing and comparing of our respective desk & stock procedures
Institutional Repository (e-submissions)

Tim Lawless (NCI) / Alex Kouker (DBS)

Objective – Establishment of a protocol for self-submission to the repositories
- study of existing practice (WIT, NUIM, UCC)
- on site visit to UCC (June 2014)

Tagline - FINDING SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS THAT COLLEAGUES FROM OTHER LIBRARIES ALSO EXPERIENCE
Information Literacy - Integration

Keith Brittle (NCI) / Maria Rogers (DBS)

On site visits -
- shadowing classes
- comparison of information skills tuition & guides

Benefits –
- class delivery, induction process
- shared experiences, diminished isolation
- key areas of future focus: online materials (creative commons) & student engagement in induction
- greater collaboration in the future
LMS, Desk & Stock Procedures, Copyright & Staffing Hierarchy

Maeve Byrne(NCI) / Peter Fleming(NCI) / David Hughes(DBS)

- transition process to a new LMS (Koha, in DBS)
- very informative & helpful

Maeve Byrne(NCI) / Colin O’Keeffe(DBS)

- desk & stock procedures, rotas, staffing
- views & current practice, very helpful

Mary Buckley(NCI) / Tim Lawless(NCI) / Marie O’Neill(DBS) / Jane Buggle(DBS)

- copyright, staffing hierarchy
Our inspiration

- Library Ireland Week, November 2012
- Swap jobs for a day
- Six library staff from NUI Maynooth participated
- Bernie Gardiner visited the medical library at Tallaght Hospital
Staff Exchange

- glad
- useful
- opportunity
- really worthwhile
- relax
- generous with time
- anxiety
- worries dispersed
- different environment
- welcoming
- interesting
International Staff Exchanges

International Library Staff Exchange Week 2-6 June 2014

- UK universities, staff exchanges since 1990s (Ayoubi and Al-Habaibeh, 2006)
- motivation and performance of staff improves, good for staff development (Kidd 1995)
- Why participate? “the need to avoid stagnation, the need to climb out of a professional rut” (p.9)
- Hannon (1997) - broadens experience & benefits career development
CILIP’s International Job Exchange, LIBEX

Exchange jobs with library and information staff around the world

Benefits
- staff development
- renewed enthusiasm
- fresh look at policies & procedures
LIBEX Exchange Reports

Katie Swann, Assistant Curator, National Art Library, UK – “Do I consider the whole experience worthwhile…? Yes, absolutely…..it is the differences that…make the whole experience more rewarding and challenging.”
Cindy May, Head of Cataloguing, University of Wisconsin – “I returned home with renewed enthusiasm for my job and my library, and that’s got to benefit the library as well as me. I sincerely hope that our two libraries will be able to continue these short-term exchanges in the future, and heartily recommend them to other institutions.”
The Benefits of Staff Exchanges

- See how others carry out their work
- Helps to reflect on how and why you do things the way you do
- Can stimulate thinking about how to do tasks differently
- Reassurance
- Networking
Where are we now?
Opportunities for Future Collaboration

- Calling on each other for help and advice
- Institutional repository e-submission protocol
- Sharing training and development costs
- Possible future cross-institutional publications
- Sharing of information literacy initiatives & resources
References (1)


References (2)


Thanks & Questions