

DLF Forum Closing Plenary: “A Call to Action” October 16, 2019

Speakers:

- Santi Thompson
- Robin Pike
- Becca Quon
- Jess Farrell
- Julie Hardesty
- Chelcie Rowell
- Leigh Bonds
- Sara Mannheimer
- Amy Wickner
- Joseph Koivisto
- Shea Swauger
- Scott Young

This panel will be moderated by Gayle Schechter, DLF Program Associate with closing announcements from Aliya Reich, DLF’s Program Manager for Conferences and Events

Gayle Schechter:

[00:00](#)

Good morning everyone. So for those of you who don't know me yet, I'm Gayle Schechter, Program Associate for CLIR and DLF and as the newest staff member and a first time Forum attendee, I was the obvious choice to handle the important task of moderating our closing plenary panel. In all seriousness, though, I'm honored to be here among this fantastic and welcoming community. As Dr. Marisa Duarte reminded us in her wonderful keynote at our opening plenary on Monday. Librarianship and justice are woven together inextricably. It is in this spirit that we present today's call to action at our closing plenary. DLF's programmatic mission is to advance research, learning, social justice, and the public good through creative design and wise application of digital library technologies. Our working groups have been at the forefront of enacting this mission through community building, research and grassroots action. Our working groups are the driving force that move DLF towards our goals.

Gayle Schechter:

[01:07](#)

Our DLF working groups are open to all, regardless of whether or not you work at a member institution. In fact, perspectives from those beyond our membership are much needed and always valued. DLF working groups provide an opportunity to

extend conversations begun at the Forum, build upon those ideas year round and get work done. We've invited current leaders from our groups to this plenary to speak briefly about their ongoing initiatives to consider future visions and to extend an invitation to everyone here and watching to join us on the eve of DLF's 25th anniversary. I'll turn things over to our first working group leader in a moment, but first I want to acknowledge our newly forming working group for digital accessibility being led by Jasmine Clark, who unfortunately could not attend the Forum this year. We'll get our panel started now. Leading us off as Santi Thompson of our Assessment Interest Group.

Santi Thompson: [02:03](#)

Can everyone hear me though? My name is Santi Thompson from the University of Houston Libraries and together with Sara Rubinow from the New York Public Library, we co-facilitate the Digital Library Federation's Assessment Interest Group. The DLF AIG seeks to engage the community in developing best practices and guidelines for various kinds of digital library assessment. Since our founding in 2014 we've been concerned with a whole host of issues such as determining how to measure the impact of digital collections through qualitative and quantitative methods and metrics, developing areas of commonality and benchmarks and how we measure collections across various platforms, understanding cost and benefits of digital collections and exploring how we can best collect, analyze, communicate and share such information effectively across the spectrum of stakeholders. We currently have five working groups who are focused on various aspects of assessment including cost analysis, cultural implications, metadata, quality, content reuse and user experience assessment.

Santi Thompson: [03:07](#)

The work of the AIG is done by and for the community. We rely on your passion, enthusiasm and feedback to sustain and grow the group. Anyone interested in participating can reach out to me or to others in the group. And if you're not familiar with me or with others in the group you can visit our Wiki page. And we also have a Google group that we share lots of communication on and have lots of discussions on so you can check that out as well. And tweets are coming out about that. So thank you. 90 seconds goes by really quickly.

Robin Pike: [03:43](#)

Good afternoon all. I'm Robin Pike. The DLF Project Managers Group continues to focus on our mission of sharing and teaching project management methodologies and tools. In 2019, the Project Managers Group has been finding ways to continue conversations from our working meetings at DLF. So for example, steering committee member Cristela Garcia Spitz

gave a Zoom presentation on UC San Diego's use of JIRA and Confluence for project portfolio management this past year. We will host additional presentations on institutions' use of tools or documentation in the coming year with three plans so far. Also, within this theme, we have taught two successful Learn@DLF workshops, and plan to continue to teach the Project Managers Toolkit in future years. The Project Managers Group has been working with listserv members to assess how people want to communicate and about what. Sorry, my phone timed out. But we have a few series of prompts planned for more discussion on the listserv to engage with our members.

Robin Pike: [04:48](#) Continuing our theme of open learning. Prompted by fruitful discussion at last year's DLF meeting, we are broadening our focus in management beyond tools and how-to resources by discussing topics focusing on the human side of management, including burnout in emotional labor, recognition, and communication. We may also explore management mentoring. We continue to add to our Zotero library on our Wiki page, adding resources beyond those that come from library publications since we have much to learn from the broader field of project management and management in general. If you want to find our resources, check out our Wiki page. Thank you.

Becca Quon: [05:36](#) Hi everyone. For the past two years I've been helping to facilitate the DLF Museums Cohort, a working group and membership cohort begun in 2015 with support from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. In that time it's become a gathering place where folks from the intersections of GLAM can share expertise and work through issues related to all things digital preservation, collections, management rights and access, teaching, user engagement, and more. With between 15 and 30 institutions represented at any given meeting, we're able to pull from a wide variety of perspectives and interests. My wish for this group as it continues to expand as a resource and community for practitioners in museum libraries, arts organizations, and the wider GLAM fields is to continue to...

Becca Quon: [06:33](#) Work together as folks who are passionate about collaborating on a national scale. You're all welcome into meetings and to propose ideas and help us as we work to bridge library archives and museum technologies in the coming years. We've also recently put out a call for co-organizers to help us convene working meetings in 2020. So if you're interested, please find me online or come chat with me in person after this session. If you'd like to get general updates and meeting reminders, please take a look at the Twitter hashtag DLFmuseums. Within the next

few minutes I'll be sharing a link to the page where you can sign up for more information. Thanks.

Jess Farrell:

[07:22](#)

Hi, I'm Jess Farrell. I co-facilitate the Born Digital Access group with Alison Clemens and I would love to recognize a lot of other people that I don't have time to. So thanks everyone else who helps out with that group. The DLF Born Digital Access group has existed since 2017 to produce research on and advance practice of providing access to born digital collections. Please join our Google group. We are working on our web presence right now, so that's the best way to find out what's happening. That's where you can get access to our documents, meetings, et cetera. And then I'll send an email out after the Forum with all of the information that I'm sharing with you today. You can comment on our two documents. Comments are open until November 30th. We have a set of access values that guide our work and our research interests.

Jess Farrell:

[08:02](#)

We also have a levels of access guidelines to help GLAM workers make decisions about modes of access. You can contribute ideas for our 2020 projects, which is an open forum right now and you can become a coordinator. We're putting out a call for new leaders right after the Forum. So our initial approach grew from the observation that as a profession, digital archivists have gotten pretty good at building out best practices and infrastructure for collecting and preserving born digital material. But little of that material is actually available for access. We've experienced the lack of resources provided for born digital collections across all institution types. And we assume that a key motivation for providing staff and infrastructure to process collections is the use of those collections. So we're trying to build out practices that increase the use of born digital collections to both better inform our pre-access workflows and hopefully advocate for more resources to care for these types of materials.

Jess Farrell:

[08:51](#)

We're challenging many assumptions from the world of archives and centering our work on user experience and needs. And while many of us initially approach this topic from an archival perspective, the group we've cultivated is diverse across different GLAM institution types. Our mere existence in 5 to 10 years depends on the interest in the community, to continue engaging in this work, and we don't believe in having a group just to have it. But if we're still here, we hope to have brought archivists and other digital library workers together to make significant impact on how we approach digital access and start to see more systemic workflows for born digital access.

Julie Hardesty:

[09:29](#)

Hi, my name is Julie Hardesty and I'm a Metadata Analyst at Indiana University and on behalf of my fellow co-leaders, Bria Parker at University of Maryland and Anna Neatrou at University of Utah and Liz Woolcott from Utah State University, I invite you to join the Metadata Support Group. Metadata is hard. The Metadata Support Group aims to help with that. We exist as a place to share resources, strategies for working through some common metadata conundrums and reassurances that you're not the only one that has no idea how that happened. We are a community on Slack. Think of us as a new version of an email listserv. We aim to be a welcoming community with space to ask questions, get answers, and generally support each other in our quest for metadata that just works. We have a Google form you can use to receive access to the Slack community and there are a variety of channels already going from aggregator aggravation to metadata value to tools. If you have ever been frustrated by a metadata issue, this group is for you and we hope we'll see you there soon.

Chelcie Rowell:

[10:31](#)

Hi, I'm Chelcie Rowell and together with Nick Homenda, I'm the co-leader of the DLF Digital Library Pedagogy Working Group, but we never call ourselves that. You probably know us by our hashtag DLFteach. We work to empower digital library practitioners to see themselves as teachers and, by the same turn, to equip teaching librarians to engage learners in how digital library technologies shape our knowledge infrastructure. DLF Teach is open to anyone interested in learning about or collaborating on digital library pedagogy. This year we've worked on three major projects. The first, the DLF Teach Toolkit edited by Erin Pappas and Liz Rodrigues with many contributors in the room today, is an openly available peer reviewed collection of lesson plans on topics such as digital publishing, data and maps, digital project development management, text analysis and coding, digital exhibits and archives, and more. You can find it right now at dlfteach.pubpub.org.

Chelcie Rowell:

[11:42](#)

Our second project, the Teaching with Digital Primary Sources white paper, was led by Brianna Gormly and Maura Seale with other contributors as well. It brings together and synthesizes research about the distinct affordances of digitized primary sources and the habits of thought required to work with them critically. Look for a publication announcement shortly after the Forum. Finally, this year we're working on an interview series about the ethics of creating multimodal scholarship led by myself, Elizabeth Gibes and Jessica Davila Greene. It will feature interviews with practitioners about ethical dimensions of ethical creation of scholarships such as accessibility, copyright in the commons, and privacy. And you can look for that series to go

live before the new year. On top of that, we've hosted Twitter chats every other month and led a half day workshop on the pedagogy of digital publishing at Learn@DLF. So we've done a lot, and we're wrapping up much of what we had set out to do over the past year or two. So this is a moment of reflection and transition and direction setting for us for the coming year. Look for calls for participation following the Forum and we hope you'll consider contributing your time and energy to undertaking our collective work together

Leigh Bonds: [13:10](#)

Formed in 2017 by Alex Gil and me, Leigh Bonds, The Digital Scholarship Working Group provides community within DLF for those of us working in digital scholarship broadly or digital humanities specifically and sharing the charge of supporting research projects, coordinating community efforts, developing programs, teaching and training and building partnerships on our campuses. In two short years we've accomplished a thing or two together. Our Google group is 272 members strong. We've hosted three Twitter chats on DS pedagogy, DS assessment, and DS labor led by members Kush Patel, Karen Hogenboom and Alex Wermer-Colan. Josh Hogan set up our community curated DS library on Zotero. We co-hosted the 2018 DLF DHSI Unconference at the University of Victoria and we've crowdsourced an open dataset on the organizational structures of DS in libraries. Of course, information about all of these efforts and about how you can contribute to them moving forward can be found on our group's DLF Wiki page.

Leigh Bonds: [14:15](#)

Since the start, we've had an open call for creative engagements on that page. And last spring, Sara Mannheimer and Jason Clark of the eResearch Network answered it. We are now partnering to forge a new direction for the hashtag DLFds in the next year. For more on our merger and what's ahead, Sara.

Sara Mannheimer: [14:38](#)

Yeah, so the eResearch Network had been running for several years as like a community of practice that was focused on building and supporting research data and digital scholarship services in libraries. And we did shared skill development, peer mentorship, networking, collaboration. And as Leigh said, Jason and I were the faculty for the past few years. And so, we saw that there was an overlap between our two groups. And before Bethany left, she and Becca Quon helped us brainstorm some ideas for our new directions. So the eResearch network was more of like a formal structure where we were faculty, we had class sessions, there were in-class assignments and take home homework.

Sara Mannheimer:

[15:24](#)

But we thought the biggest strengths of the group were really its peer mentorship angle. We had peer pairing feedback groups, we organized consultations where we matched people with experts in topics they were looking to learn about. And so we wanted to capitalize on those parts as well as our big network of alumni. And so we decided to sort of create something based on a mutual aid society where we all support each other and help each other grow. So the plan is to host a couple of chat sessions this spring and then have a more formal meeting in May of 2020 to discuss where the group is going. And then from there we'll start having sessions in the fall of 2020 where different members of the group can coordinate quarterly meetings starting with me and Jason. But we want to do some hands-on activities on topics like creating a roadmap for your digital scholarship program, project management, and research funding. So our full syllabus is available at the Bit.ly link that's on the slide and we hope that you'll join us in this new endeavor.

Amy Wickner:

[16:40](#)

Hi everyone, I'm representing the Labor Working Group. Wow, which is the three women on the slide, but so many other people. For the past year we've been involved in the Collective Responsibility forums which address the specific problems of precarity created and reproduced by grant funded positions and how they impact the lives and careers of workers, particularly those who are marginalized and underrepresented populations. We recently released a white paper on the experiences of grant funded digital GLAM workers based on our first forum held on April. The second forum takes place at the conclusion of DLF in just a few hours and will build recommendations and benchmarks appropriate to grant seeking institutions and the agencies that fund them. So please see laborforum.diglib.org to learn more. We've also hosted five monthly working sessions this year about salaries, contingent positions and building networks for organizing. We're rethinking our Wiki space to serve informational and organizing needs of which we're now aware and becoming more aware.

Amy Wickner:

[17:37](#)

While seeking out other communities who share interests, we've connected with Tech Workers Coalition and with the Maintainers to learn from their approaches to organizing and research slash policy respectively. Looking ahead, we're interested in exploring strategies that minimize risk to workers and skill building for digital GLAM labor equity and gathering and making concrete visible use of data about current labor practices, and, thinking back to Dr. Duarte's keynote, in identifying and reconnecting with our elders in this work.

Joseph Koivisto:

[18:11](#)

Hello, I'm Joseph Koivisto and I'm here representing the Government Records Transparency and Accountability Working Group. Founded on a belief that the free flow of government information is fundamental to a democratic society, the Government Records Transparency and Accountability Group seeks to support a broader culture of records and public data transparency in the digital age. So, looking forward to what that means over the next coming years, what would we like to do in regards to that? To increase our engagement with gov records, experts both within and without the federal government, making the most of our partnerships with the very experts that are informing and enacting national regulations of record schedules, retention and dissemination. So narrow Library of Congress, Government Publishing Office building an evaluative framework, a patchwork quilt of metrics across a number of agencies for measuring the degree to which government records are in fact at risk. Furthering the work of groups that are already engaged in this type of work, and enhancing it. Continuing our engagement through webinars and knowledge sharing sessions with archivists, librarians and scholars, investigating the use of government records and public data as a mechanism of state violence. Continuing and enhancing activities that have already proven to be impactful over the past couple of years. Things like review and discussion of National Archives records or scheduling requests. Advocacy, outreach to government agencies in events such as Endangered Data Week and looking beyond our initial focus on American records in order to foster relationships with gov records experts around the world, many of whom are developing creative approaches to electronic government records. And if you'd like to learn more, please check out our Wiki. We also have a Google group and you can check out the hashtag DLFgrt.

Shea Swauger:

[19:59](#)

Hey everyone. My name is Shea Swauger. I work at Auraria Library in Denver, Colorado and Scott and I are part of something called the Technologies of Surveillance Group or ToS. So this working group was formed at the end of the 2017 DLF session with myself and Yasmeen Shorish. Shout out to Yasmeen, yep. So we're committed as a group to the interrogation of our collective relationship with data collection technologies. Libraries are increasingly investing in these kinds of data collection systems, but we should stop doing that. We should also be aware of how that impacts our users. And so we want to interrogate the methods and ethical implications of these technologies, but we also want to create some guidelines about how to operationalize that continued investigation whenever we encounter it in our profession, and we will continue to encounter it in our profession. So our group

currently has five main areas of investigation. And then we have a working group that explores each of those five main areas. And Scott's gonna break that down for you.

- Scott Young: [21:09](#) We have library build systems such as open source repositories, vendor build systems that libraries purchase release. We have an instruction and outreach working group focusing on strategies for connecting with our communities on these topics related to data collection and privacy. We have a professional research ethics group such as surveillance ethics and library based research and social media research. And we have an advocacy group focusing on advocating for privacy and resisting surveillance. We really want to thank the leaders and the members of these groups who over the last couple of years has produced some amazing work.
- Shea Swauger: [21:45](#) So we have some outputs, some documents that I think are really helpful that I want to highlight. It was not just the work of the members, but also the wider DLF community. So thank you for everyone in this room that collaborated on that. So we have an advocacy action plan, a glossary and explainer for the ethics and research use of library patron data. A vendor privacy policy analysis, instruction curriculum, and a practical guide to performing library user data risk assessments for library build systems. And you can access all of these tools through our group Wiki on the DLF website and we're seeking new members. So if there's anyone that wants to get involved in this work, please contact myself or Scott afterwards. Thank you.
- Gayle Schechter: [22:26](#) All right. Excellent. You all did amazing on time. So since I've only been at DLF for six weeks and one of my primary responsibilities will be working with our working groups, I have some questions for you. So first is, what is your advice to someone interested in your group, but who may feel a bit intimidated about jumping into the fold? Anyone, go right ahead.
- Amy Wickner: [22:56](#) Okay. So for the Labor Working Group, at least, I would encourage folks who are interested to just show up. One thing about our group is that we address issues that we can guarantee everyone here experiences or is adjacent to in their workplace. And so often where we have our most powerful conversations are when folks are able to connect the big picture things that we're talking about or that our guest speakers are, you know, wow, contacts are talking about with sort of lived experience that we can then share back. And so I think the ability to share experience and connect it to what's happening with you is a way to potentially level the disparity and expertise.

There's also the aspect that recognizing that working group leaders are all learning ourselves. Often that's why we began or got involved in these working groups in the first place. So we're all learners and we welcome you all as learners as well.

Gayle Schechter: [23:48](#)

Anyone else have anything to add?

Jess Farrell: [23:50](#)

I would say the same for the DLF. Wait, which group am I again? Born-Digital Access Group.

Jess Farrell: [23:57](#)

We have bi-monthly meetings that bring everybody together. We have a couple of sub-working groups that meet monthly or even more frequently than that depending on what they're working on. But we have a meeting every other month that is meant to bring new people into the fold to get caught up on everything that we're doing and figure out how to get involved. And we have usually pretty specific asks for people or you can just come in and be quiet and listen. It's either way, whatever is, makes you most comfortable.

Leigh Bonds: [24:25](#)

I'm just going to say that digital scholarship by its very nature is collaborative. So we welcome participation from anyone who may even be just a little interested in learning and talking about building programs and things of that nature on their campuses. And it would be very difficult for us to create a system of mutual aid if we were all alone. So, and this is a great time to join our group too, since we're in a bit of transition. So we're looking for people with new energy who are interested in sort of building the future of the group. So just hop on in.

Santi Thompson: [25:01](#)

So the Assessment Interest Group has currently five working groups underneath that umbrella, and all are very different. Some are really rigid in structure and meet regularly and have defined outputs. Others are sort of more flexible and are sort of figuring out their way as they go. So I think there's a lot of variety there for anyone who is interested in getting involved. Much like all of the rest of the groups, I think the work we do is pretty practitioner based and also focused in the daily operations and the questions that you might get from administrators or from users or from stakeholders in various capacities. So the relevance is pretty...pretty established I would think. So, and we have five working groups because individuals decided that those things were important to mobilize around. We've had more groups in the past. We've had fewer groups in the past. So if you find an area of interest that's not reflected currently, we would welcome your contributions to creating a working group and to moving that aspect of assessment forward.

- Joseph Koivisto: [26:24](#) There was, oh, sorry. If you're interested in the Government Records Transparency and Accountability Group, but are concerned that you're not a gov docs librarian or you're not an archivist, please don't let that stop you. A lot of us aren't. And one of the things that we kind of pride ourselves on in this group is engaging in consciousness raising and increasing awareness of the ways in which government records impact our lives daily. And you know, by increasing the collective consciousness around this issue, we increase the critical mass of people that can engage on this issue. So if you come just to learn, please do.
- Robin Pike: [27:03](#) So the DLF Project Managers Group, we are going to be putting out a call. Please join our listserv. We're going to be doing a series of prompts to have everybody introduce because there's always an influx of new people. And you do not need to be a project manager or manager to join our group. You can just be somebody who does a little bit of management or wants to learn more about it. We are very open and learning group as Amy said. We are all here to learn. And after we put do the prompts, we're gonna see what you want to learn from us. And then we usually split into different groups depending on where we're going with it. And depending on your time and your commitments, you can pick up or just listen.
- Gayle Schechter: [27:53](#) All right. So I think for this next question I'll have, we'll start with Santi and move down the line and have everyone give a response. But I want to know what is the most rewarding aspect of your involvement with DLF working groups?
- Santi Thompson: [28:09](#) Oh, I get to start. Huh? I don't know if I would say there is just one, but certainly for me. I started with the Assessment Interest Group five years ago with this idea of trying to solve a problem and I haven't solved it yet. But what I've done is I've met some really great colleagues and friends and have a much better nuanced understanding of the, the assessment challenges we face and sort of the comical naivete that I had coming in is still there with a sense of humor. So I don't know if that answers the question, but I would say that sense of community and that shared sense of trying to figure it out goes a long way.
- Robin Pike: [29:03](#) Well I'd like to echo the sense of community. So I joined the Project Managers Group as a new project manager and I gained a lot of resources and also the confidence to know that I was making good decisions. I'm killing that imposter's syndrome. So we also can commiserate together because we're facing a lot of the same project management challenges. There's a lot of overlap with labor issues in project management. So diving into

these issues together we're able to come up with non-formalized best practices to keep each other sane.

Becca Quon:

[29:47](#)

So for those of you who don't know, I have been working with CLIR and DLF for three years and started out in a position really similar to Gayle's working with all of the working groups here. So I've seen quite a few of the groups that are here today in their very early stages. And I think for me the best part of seeing those groups form and for working on my own passion project with the DLF Museums group is the moment when folks get together and they're like, "Whoa, you're into this too. Like, what can we do together?" And so seeing how that plays out and how DLF's resources can go from that moment into something so much bigger is the absolute best part of working with this community.

Jess Farrell:

[30:50](#)

I think it's the range of perspectives from different types of institutions and different types of workers that I appreciate the most. My job title right now is Community Facilitator, but for the past 10 years before that, it was a practicing archivist. And I kind of think that archivists are kind of shooting themselves in the foot by really focusing like just on their work with other archivists. So it's been really rewarding to work with people who aren't archivists because born digital access is not just an archival thing. And so we do have a pretty diverse group of institutions, but I really want to increase that too, and continue to hear lots of different perspectives and work with other types of workers on how we further our practice as archivists.

Julie Hardesty:

[31:38](#)

Yeah, for the Metadata Support Group, it's just connection with colleagues and being able to just talk about metadata and ask questions and having that space to chat and potentially vent if need be. And it's really nice to have that because that was actually how it all started because we were doing that over breakfast at DLF and realized we should just have a community space to talk when we need to and ask questions. So that's been the most rewarding thing is just being able to create that community that can exist not just at DLF but all the time.

Chelcie Rowell:

[32:16](#)

For me as a member of DLF Teach I think one of the most rewarding aspects is, you know, I came into this profession, and I was a digital collections librarian, and a digital scholarship librarian, but I didn't necessarily have deep experience as a teacher. And so like joining this community where we could buttress each other as people, as teachers who are learning how to be teachers and to build our confidence and self-efficacy and support each other as we were growing in our teaching practice was deeply rewarding. I think the other thing that

applies across the board, not just to DLF Teach, but to all DLF working groups because they are communities of practice that can design their own composition, and we have a lot of autonomy to set our goals and figure out the structures and processes and ways of forming community that will help us to attain those goals. Somebody earlier said that, you know, that they didn't want to have a group just for the sake of having a group. And I think, yeah, I like the opportunity for reflection and deliberation and like purposefulness around continuing to exist as a community that is somehow just part of the DLF organizational culture.

Leigh Bonds: [33:47](#) I'm going to say that just having a network to brainstorm ideas, get feedback and learn from, and to work together as a community to develop resources that are actually useful for our community and just the fact that we were able to get together and form this merger I think speaks to the power that we have to, you know, direct our, kind of, forge our own paths with our working groups.

Sara Mannheimer: [34:18](#) Yeah, true, and I echo Chelcie and Leigh's idea about autonomy, but we also get a lot of support from DLF. Becca Quon has been amazing for the eResearch Network, so that was a great part of it, is interacting with the administrative structures of DLF because you really do get that support. Yeah.

Amy Wickner: [34:42](#) So I also feel that DLF is the people you met along the way. But to change the conversation a little bit I think one of the more rewarding things from Labor Working Group over the past year has been seeing all the different organizing efforts and just conversations about labor popping up among GLAM workers and among people who broadly consider themselves tech workers, which as I think many of us know, does not strictly include library IT or you know, people who are working for a tech company. So a lot of that work, people have been able to connect back to stuff that we've put out there, which brings me back to my main point, which is that one of the more... This is not quite answering your question, but something that I really appreciate about DLF has been just the platform and then the infrastructure underlying that platforms such as the Wikis, Zoom meetings, and then because infrastructure is people, the folks who help us just make all that stuff work. So from Bethany who encouraged Ruth to start the group, to Becca, Aliya, and now Gayle, all these women who are just helping us keep it all together. And along with them, not just our group, but every single other group. Yeah, that's just being able to work with you all has been really incredibly rewarding. So thank you.

- Joseph Koivisto: [35:55](#) The most rewarding thing that I have experienced in the Government Records Transparency and Accountability group is the opportunity to take small actions in a stultifying political period. A lot of us feel overwhelmed by just the endless barrage of political and social issues that have risen to the surface recently. But in this group, we are able to focus our energies into something small, like a letter to NARA on record scheduling changes requests. And that's a small thing, but it is actionable and it allows us to not feel you know, isolated or frozen in our footsteps. So if you'd like to take action, come join us.
- Shea Swauger: [36:53](#) I was going to say hope, but I'm actually not that hopeful. So I had to come up with another word, and I think I got like a check on sanity. I'm a part of an institution that has fully embraced neoliberalism, and capitalism, and surveillance, and at every turn tries to chip away at any sort of EDI movements and only participates them in the most performative way. And like, I think we're normalizing surveillance in a way that I've never seen before. Like to children, like my kid now thinks that's how it's always been, and I feel like it's almost a form of massive gaslighting that this is the way it should be or has always been. And so to get around a group of people that are like, "Naw," that's good. And it helps me feel a little bit more in touch with the things that I really value and believe in because most of the time when I push back on those kinds of things, it's like, "Oh, you, you know, you're paranoid," and they make like tinfoil hat jokes or like you're a snowflake.
- Shea Swauger: [38:08](#) And so to get around other people that have maybe similar convictions has been good. And, like in general, the world is on fire. Like, to your points, like everything is breaking or broken. And like I said, I don't feel super hopeful, and so but I don't want to feel insane. I don't want to feel like I've lost touch with like what matters in my life and my core values, and that the things that I actually want to move towards and sacrifice for are possible, but only in a group of community with people that will support me and value and see me. And I don't think any of that change is possible without that kind of community. So I'd say a sanity check, and like maybe in a few years I could be hopeful, but meanwhile, I think there's other people here that are hopeful and that can carry that for me for a little bit while I don't have it.
- Scott Young: [39:08](#) Thanks Shea. It's hard to add to all the great points that the other panelists have said. Thank you to everyone. I guess I would just try to tie it all together by saying that the working groups provide a shared sense of direction for this work and bring our community together. The people that are in and out

of this room. And then through our community network we can amplify the impact that we would otherwise have and provide at least some measure of progress. And I guess as a specific point too, I'll also add that the DLF staff has been really awesome with formatting our documents and our tools to make them look very professional, way more professional than we could ever make them look. So thank you for that.

Gayle Schechter: [39:52](#)

Great, and at this point I'm going to invite up our Program Manager for Conferences and Events, Aliya Reich, but I want to thank all of our panelists and I'm really looking forward to working with all of you and the DLF community going forward.

Aliya Reich: [40:13](#)

So I don't have much because I have two minutes, but in Gayle's opening she talked about how the working groups are a driving force in DLF, and we went back and forth on that language. What metaphor did we want to use? What sort of mode of transportation? Should it be a boat? Should it be a car? And we just settled on driving. But if there's any doubt that that is so, so true, I think it's gone now after hearing all of these amazing folks say, talk about the work that they're doing and what they see for the future. However hopeful or unhelpful they may be. It's wonderful that this can be a community for them and for you to sort of join and do this good, hard, important work. So let's give just one more round of applause to all the folks up here.

Aliya Reich: [41:09](#)

If you are interested in getting involved in one of the groups you can email us, you have my contact information. But also if you go to diglib.org/groups that has a rundown of every group that we have, and information about how to contact them as well. Please join us in Baltimore for 2020. Woo hoo!

Aliya Reich: [41:36](#)

I guess I feel like I need a gavel or some sort of, you know, but thank you for an incredible event in 2019, safe travels to all of you, and thank you for being part of this community.