

SHARING SPACE BETWEEN NEIGHBORS

Toward Local Frameworks for Library/Faculty Collaboration on Digital Collections

Steve Kutay (California State University Northridge)

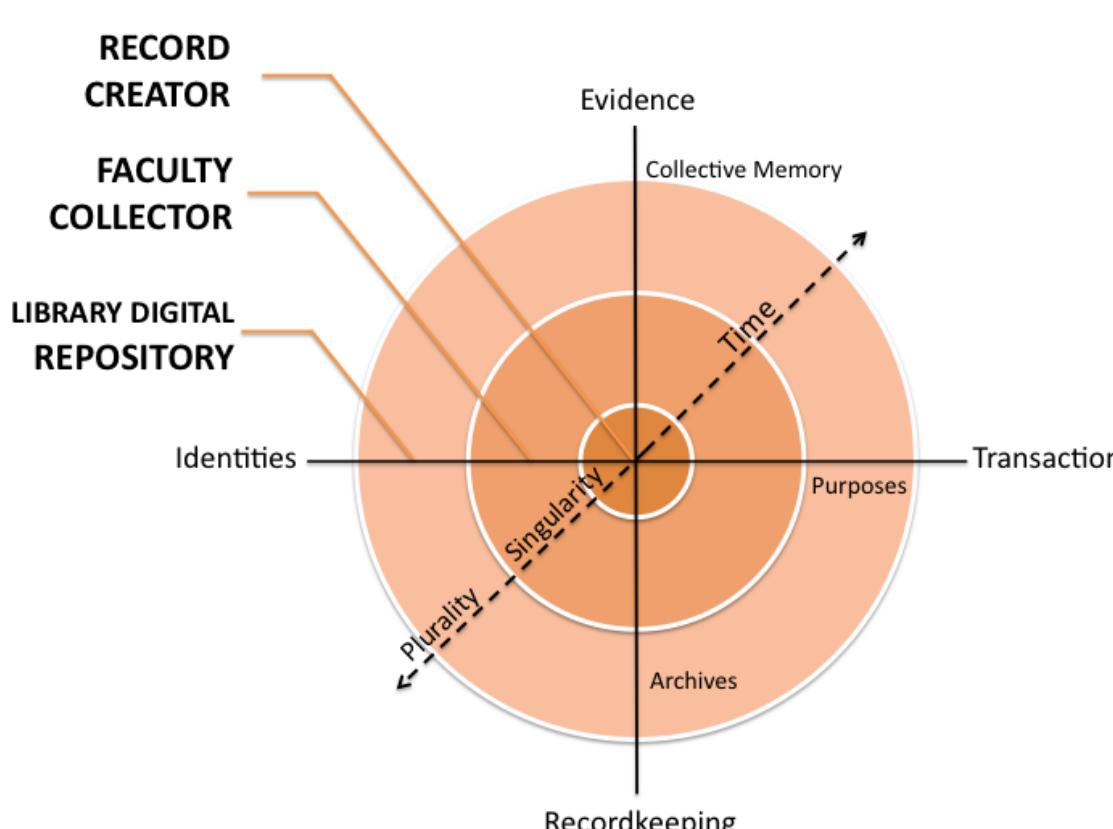
Introduction 1

The Oviatt Library at the California State University Northridge has participated in multiple collaborations with faculty involving the digital preservation of, and distributed access to their primary source collections. These faculty proposals have stemmed from the realization that the library is well-positioned to offer support for their digital resource needs. For librarians and archivists, these collaborations promote the expansion of professional boundaries into personal collections¹, and represent an extended realm of advocacy for records preservation and access. On the surface, collaborations of this type appear to be organic. Negotiations, however, can be protracted and challenging, requiring both parties to communicate their positions regarding a range of issues and concerns. Complicating the matter is the messiness that often surrounds the notion of 'ownership' of data with regards to an institution and its personnel². To assist our future endeavors, the construction of a local framework to guide and organize the collaborative process is underway.

Note: Though other forms of library/faculty collaboration exist, such as community appraisal and description, this study is focused on collaborations using personal collections held by faculty.

1.1

Borrowing from the Records Continuum Diagram³, this graph illustrates the time-space phenomenon of records moving from creator to academic digital repository. It also demonstrates the reification of collaborative recordkeeping "envisioned" by the continuum⁴.



¹ Lee, C. A. "Introduction". In: *I. Digital: Personal Collections in the Digital Era*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2011.
² Lee, C. A. and Capra, R. "And Now the Twain Shall Meet: Exploring the Connections between PIM and Archives". In: *I. Digital: Personal Collections in the Digital Era*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2011.
³ Upward, P. "Structuring the Records Continuum-part One: Postcustodial Principles and Properties." *Archives and Manuscripts* 24, no. 2 (1996).
⁴ "Structuring the Records Continuum Part Two: Structuration Theory and Recordkeeping." *Archives and Manuscripts* 25, no. 1 (1997): 10-35.
⁵ McKennish, S. "Placing Records Continuum Theory and Practice." *Archival Science* 1, no. 4 (2001): 333-359.

Problem 2

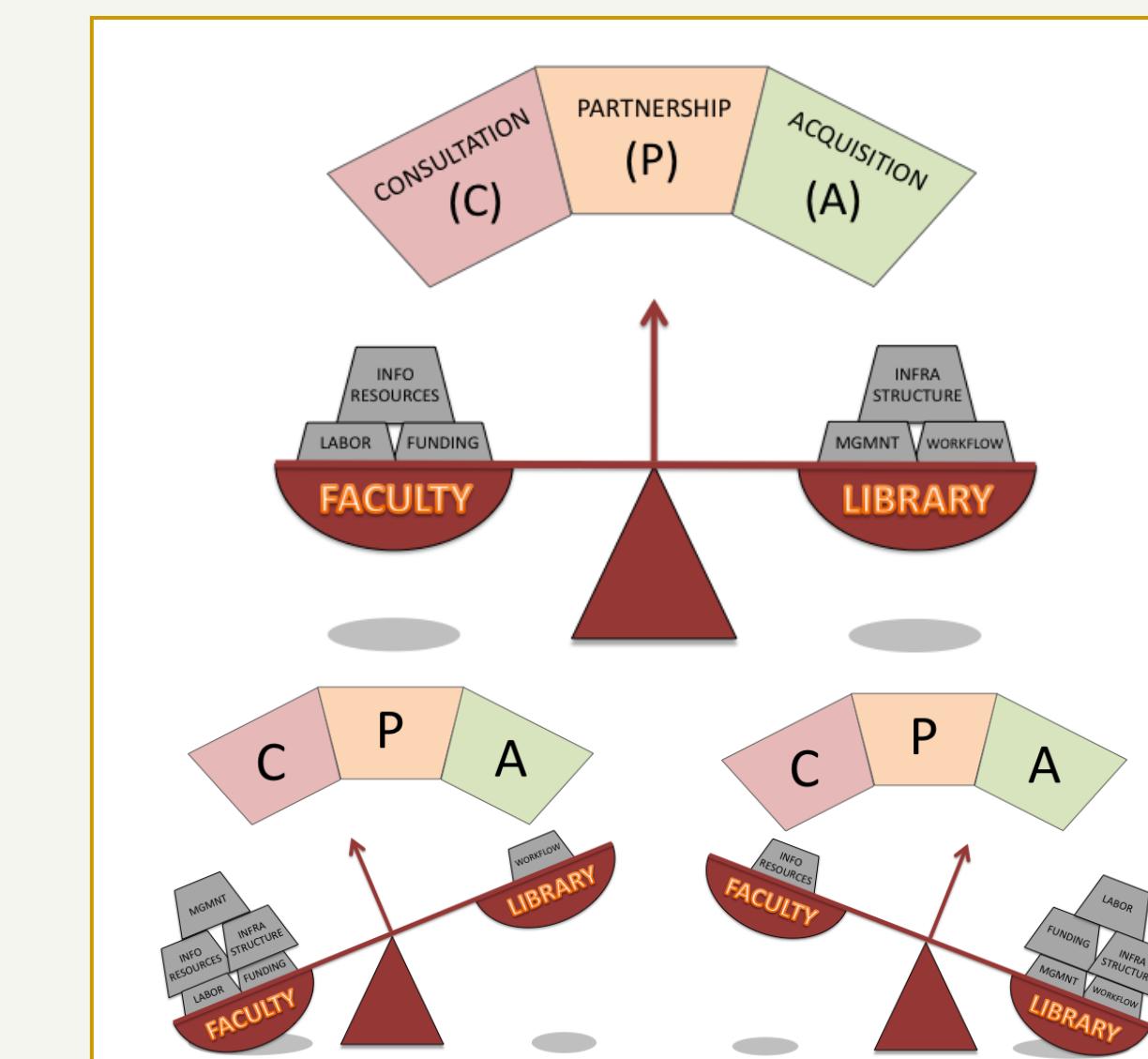
The diversity of: a) primary source formats and content, b) available resources, c) faculty attitudes, and d) user needs prevent collaborations from conforming to a singular model. Digital collection collaborations necessarily follow different paths to completion. It is the goal of a framework to formalize and guide the collaborative process, and to flexibly accommodate a variety of factors present within proposed digital collaborations between faculty members and the Library.

Development 4

The foundation of this framework is the digital collections policy. The policy articulates the scope of services supported by the library. This policy, in turn, guides the construction of a framework for structuring library/faculty collaborations. Since institutions vary with respect to academic and faculty focus, a framework should be locally constructed to meet the needs of the institution. In addition, our understanding of the infusion of records collections into local faculty information regimens can inform the development of future services, and therefore policy and the framework itself.

Framework development is built upon four primary tasks:

1. Review the scope of collaborative service capabilities of the library based on willingness, available resources and established infrastructure. (see 4.1)
2. Update the digital collections policy to accommodate the scope of collaborative services and outline minimal requirements to justify library participation. (see 4.2)
3. Survey trends in faculty primary source collecting, creation, use and attitudes toward collaboration. (see 4.3)
4. Based on the survey results, identify and map faculty and disciplinary needs across all levels of collaborative services offered by the library. Update digital collections policy as necessary. (see 4.4)

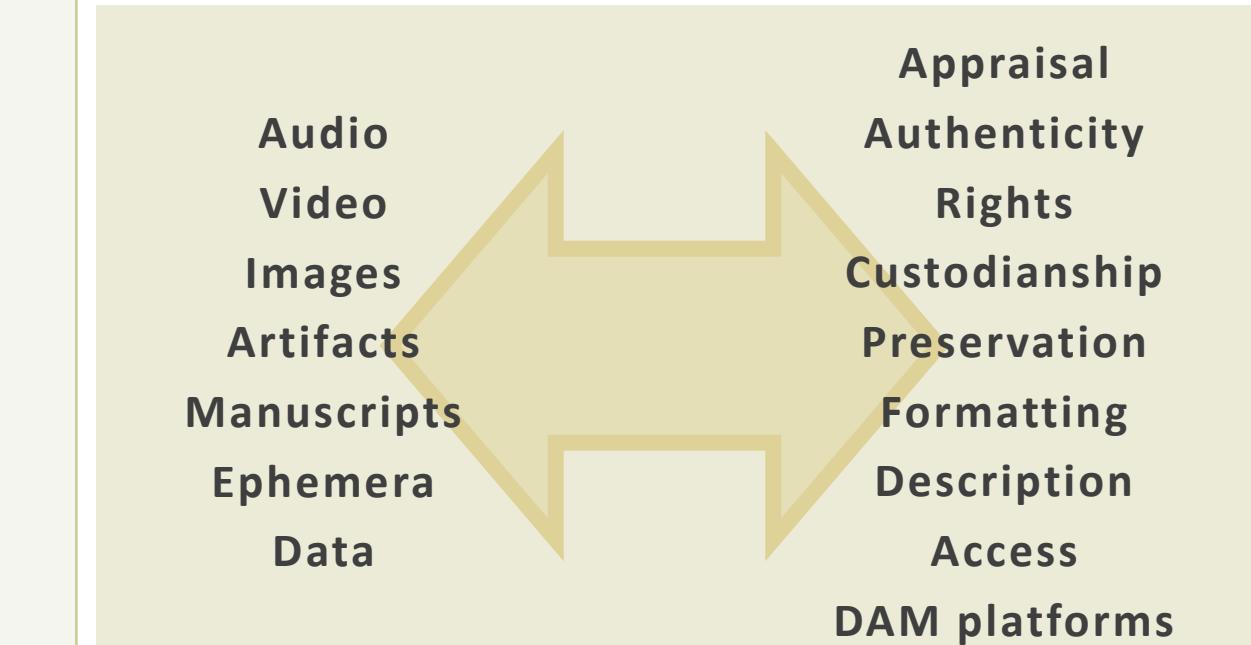


Methodology 3

The preliminary development toward a framework is supported by knowledge rendered from past and present library/faculty collaborations. A framework will be constructed upon the completion and findings of a survey distributed to the faculty of CSUN as well as interviews from current and former faculty collaborators. Both the survey and interviews are designed to assess primary source collection, creation, use and outlook toward digital collaboration regarding these resources.

Requirements 4.2

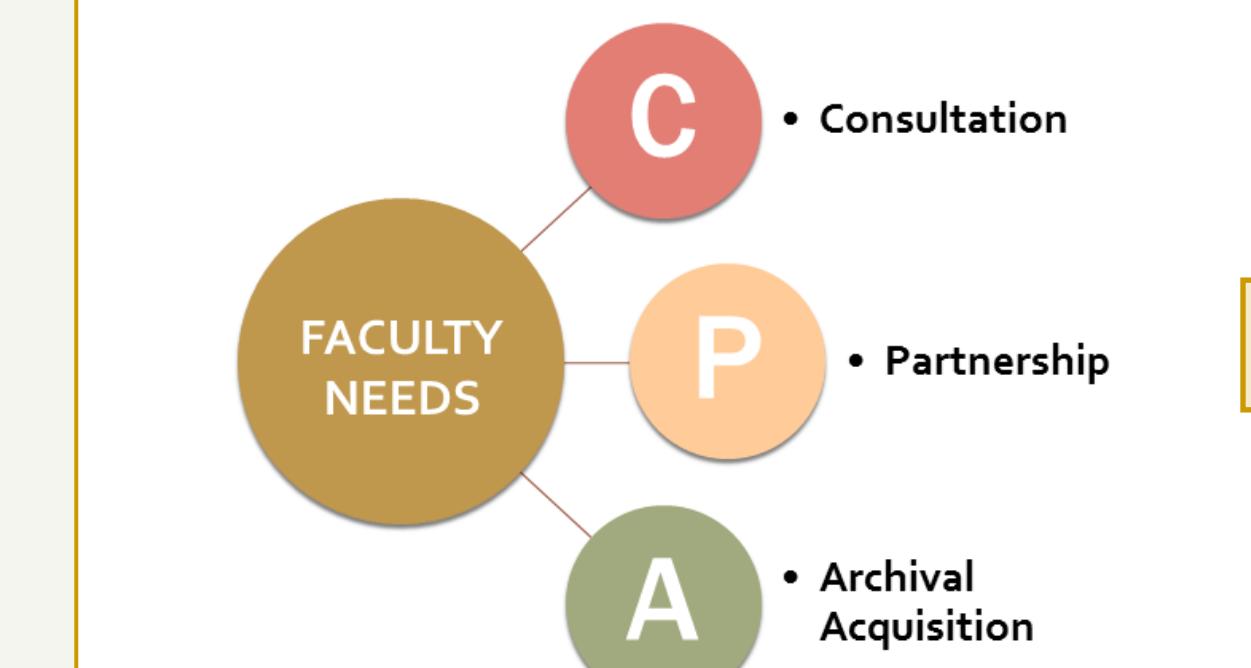
Supported by policy, acceptable proposals are justified based on adherence to standards and best practices across formats. These represent additional points of negotiation between optimal and minimally acceptable treatment of resources.



Apply Survey Results 4.4

1. Map survey results to collaborative services needs

2. Revise Digital Collections Policy with services updates



4.1 Review Scope of Services

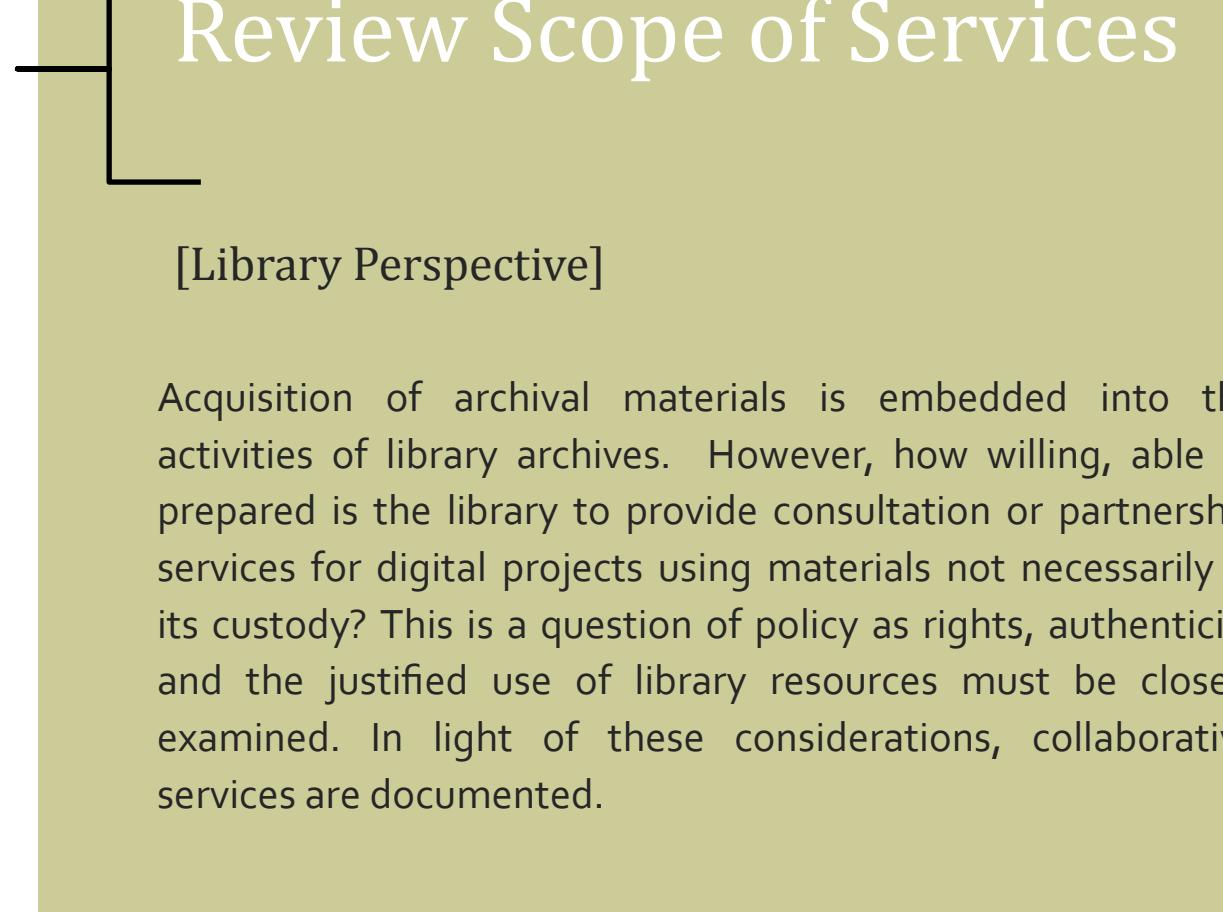
[Library Perspective]

Acquisition of archival materials is embedded into the activities of library archives. However, how willing, able or prepared is the library to provide consultation or partnership services for digital projects using materials not necessarily in its custody? This is a question of policy as rights, authenticity and the justified use of library resources must be closely examined. In light of these considerations, collaborative services are documented.

Summary 5

Collaborations are complex. The development of a framework for Library/Faculty collaborations on digital collections is sought to organize a process fraught with decisions regarding services, resource distribution and negotiated outcomes. The following tasks are being used to build a foundation for the construction of a framework for future collaborations.

1. Review digital collections service capabilities across the scope of collaborative possibilities.
2. Write into policy the support of these services and define acceptable methods to justify collaboration.
3. Survey local faculty to understand trends in primary source collection/creation, use and attitudes.
4. Use faculty input to further develop digital services and revise digital collections policy.



Faculty Survey 4.3

Further research is planned to understand local trends in primary source collecting and creation among the faculty at CSUN. The knowledge produced by this survey will assist the continued development of services and policy by informing library personnel of:

- Which faculty are collecting/creating
- What is collected/created
- How these primary sources are being used
- What digital storage, access and preservation needs exist
- The prevalent attitudes toward collaboration with the library

Contact

Steve Kutay
Digital Services Librarian
California State University Northridge
18111 Nordhoff St. 91330
818.677.2335
stephen.kutay@csun.edu

