

Beaux Arts to Modernism: Partnering to Increase Access to North Carolina's Architectural Heritage

Brian Dietz, Digital Program Librarian for Special Collections

From Theory to Practice

November 4, 2011

Why Collaborate?

Why Collaborate?

- It's easy!

Why Collaborate?

- ~~It's easy!~~
- It's rewarding!

Why Collaborate?

- Use case: The researcher
 - Better content coverage
 - Support different research questions
 - Integrated access to collections

Why Collaborate?

- Use case: The LAM professional
 - Build professional relationships
 - Leverage strengths and knowledge of colleagues
 - Increasing grant funding chances & funds
 - Distribute funds, share costs

Identifying Partners

- IF you don't have them in mind already...
 - Ask researchers
 - Ask around
 - Google, WorldCat, ArchiveGrid

Starting a Partnership

- Define a common problem
- Seek common ground for solution
- **Consider a planning grant**

Budgeting for Partnerships

- Money
 - Trips
 - Meetings
 - Collaboration software
- Time

Cross-Cultural Partnerships

- Flexibility and patience
 - Cultural differences
 - Roles in respective institutions
 - Personalities
 - Decision making
 - Reporting
 - Experienced time
- Develop a communication model

Negotiating Partnerships

- Expectations
- Level of contributions
- Decision making process/authority
- Work model and schedule

Collaboration Tools

- Basecamp (<http://basecamphq.com/>)
- Wikis (<http://pbworks.com/>)
- Google docs (<https://docs.google.com/>)
- Trello (<https://trello.com/>)

Case Study

- Beaux Arts to Modernism: Early Twentieth Century Architecture in North Carolina
- LSTA grant administered by the State Library of North Carolina, 2009-2011
- Goal: reformat, describe, and make available resources related to early to mid-20th century architecture in North Carolina

Beaux Arts to Modernism

- Partners
 - NCSU Libraries (lead)
 - J. Murrey Atkins Library Special Collections at UNC Charlotte
 - North Carolina State Archives
 - Asheville Art Museum (year two)

Beaux Arts to Modernism

- Advisers
 - Architecture faculty
 - Architectural historians
 - Historic preservationists
 - Design librarians

Beaux Arts to Modernism

- Advisory group's role
 - Content selection
 - Partner selection
 - Project descriptive needs
 - Site functionality

Beaux Arts to Modernism

- J. Murrey Atkins Library, UNC Charlotte
 - 3 collections, 3400+ images
- NCSU Libraries
 - 6 collections, 3300+ images
- Asheville Art Museum
 - 2 collections, 1000+ images
- North Carolina State Archives
 - 3 collections, 600+ images

Beaux Arts to Modernism

- Starting :: Rationale
- Budgeting :: Time, money
- Negotiating :: Expectations, work plans

Golden Rules

- Treat others as you would be treated
- Treat others' collections as you would treat yours
- Promote your friends and their work
- Document decisions
- Do a retrospective, if possible

Beaux Arts to Modernism

Brian Dietz

brian_dietz@ncsu.edu