

Future of Libraries Interest Group

July 6, 11 am – 12 pm

In attendance: Sara Arnold, Michael Blackwell, Katie Dehmer, Jennifer Hopwood, Jennifer Jones, Annie Kovach, Emily Lyons, Tracy Miller, Deidrah Reeves, Carrie Sanders, Kate Sigler, Conni Strittmatter, and Thomas Vose

Background Information:

We had a number of new attendees at this meeting, so Conni reviewed some of the history of FOLIG and the past structure. She explained that topics are picked for each meeting of the year, members scan a variety of news sources to share articles to the Slack. 2-3 members volunteer to be responsible for a topic and to organize the discussion around that topic.

Structure:

This year we agreed to meet every other month. On our non-meeting months, we agreed to share out our discussion with the larger Maryland Library/MLA community.

Discussion ensued regarding the topics we had identified at our June Meeting. Thomas suggested that we consider Education as a topic, as it seemed like a very pressing issue given world conditions. The group readily agreed. We decided that the topic Disruption/Change would be a part of any of the discussions we had on the other topics.

We decided to group a number of topics together and came up with the following structure:

August: Education

October: Social Justice/Mental Health

December: Workforce/Public Service

February: Economy/Technology

On the “off” months, we would facilitate a webinar for MLA on the topic we just discussed. That webinar could be led by the people who facilitated the discussion, or it could be led by someone else that attended the meeting. We agreed that we liked the structure of the virtual sandbox that MSL put forth during the COVID closing and thought it might be a good model for our conversations.

Katie and Carrie agreed to facilitate the August discussion.

NEXT MEETING: August 3, 10 am – 12 pm via Blackboard Collaborate. Link is in the Slack.

Action Items:

A #Education2020 channel will be added to Slack to share education content (CHANNEL ADDED. Now share!)

There is a webinar on Wednesday, July 22 at 1:00 pm facilitated by Miguel Figeroa from the ALA Center for the Future of Libraries. The information about it is posted on the general channel in Slack. Sign up if you are interested!

A Slack Channel for scheduling will be created – people can sign up for topics they would like to facilitate (CHANNEL CREATED: #scheduling2020)