Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion
Survey of Member Institutions

Results & Summary

Digital Commonwealth Conference 2021
Justin Snow, President
Summary

- Sent to 242 member institutions
- 50 responses – 21% return rate
- 12 wanted to be interviewed
- 10 were interviewed – 83% return rate
Questions & Responses

Q1: What best describes your institution’s and/or department’s current approach to enhancing diversity, equity, access, and inclusion? Check all that apply.
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- 46% - Implementing new institutional or departmental policies, or including this issue in strategic planning documents.

- 46% - Developing smaller scale, collections-specific projects that address these issues.

- 44% - Convening institutional working groups that address these issues.

- 38% - Releasing statements of support from executives and/or boards.
Questions & Responses

Q1: What best describes your institution’s and/or department's current approach to enhancing diversity, equity, access, and inclusion? Check all that apply.

- 32% (combined) - Interested but unsure how to pursue it.
- 8% - Not interested.
Questions & Responses

Q2: Do you have historic or contemporary collections that deal with social justice that are yet to be described or digitized, which you would like to share more broadly on Digital Commonwealth and promote? Select one.

- Yes: 12%
- No: 12%
- Probably Yes: 40%
- Probably No: 36%
Questions & Responses

Q3: Do you have historic or contemporary collections that potentially include problematic or offensive materials that are yet to be described or digitized that you are concerned about sharing due to the harm they may cause? Select one.

- Yes: 12%
- No: 26%
- Probably Yes: 16%
- Probably No: 44%
Questions & Responses

Q4: Would you be interested in hearing from other peer Digital Commonwealth institutions about their approaches to enhancing DEAI? Select one.

- Yes: 62%
- No: 10%
- Maybe: 28%
Interview

Q1: How would you like to see Digital Commonwealth improve in supporting work to dismantle oppression and injustice? Please feel free to describe general issues or suggest specific actions we could take.

- Resources for descriptive metadata
- Active re-cataloging, reparative language
- Guided usage of primary resources
- Living history vs. curating history
- Highlight other institutions, especially outside New England, who are doing it well
Interview

Q2: Within the archives, libraries, and museums fields, which organizations do you see as leaders in addressing oppression and injustice? Which organizations have projects or programs you think we should know about and support?

- Incluseum
- Museum Hue
- Archives for Black Lives
- Archivists Against
- Museum of African American History
- WeHere
- Indigenous Archives Collective
- Abolitionist Teaching Network
Q3: Outside of the archives, libraries, and museums fields, are there people or organizations that you suggest we work with? This could be organizations to learn from, or organizations that may need digitization assistance or otherwise benefit from collaborating with Digital Commonwealth.

- **Learn from:**
  - Wee the People

- **Assist:**
  - Grassroots organizations
  - Small museums
  - Educational non-profits
Interview

Q4: Are there any areas regarding systemic injustice that you feel Digital Commonwealth does well in? We will use this information to inform our conversations with peer organizations about what we have to offer.

- 2020 conference programming
- The actions coming from the BLM statement (i.e. this survey)
- BPL collaborations
- Land acknowledgement statement
- DC membership variety
- DC is “nimble”
- Eben English’s statement at 2019 conference
Contact

We want to hear from all of you.

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