

Arca: Purpose to Practice Facilitated Session – Outcome Notes

November 26, 2018

Meeting Attendees

Chair – Debbie Schacter, Capilano University
April Haddad, Justice Institute of BC
Paige Hohmann, Digitized Okanagan History, UBC
Chris Hurst, Brandon University
Kim Isaac, University of the Fraser Valley
Karen Meijer-Kline, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

BCELN:
Anita Cocchia
Sunni Nishimura
Brandon Weigel

Summary

The Arca Advisory Committee met on November 26th to participate in a session facilitated by BC ELN's Leah Hopton. The goals for the meeting were to:

- Refine Arca's purpose and vision statements
- Outline Arca's practice (3-year timeline)
- Surface Arca priorities

The session began with a brief overview of the journey Arca has taken from idea, to inception, to its current state as a multi-provincial shared digital repository. Following this, attendees moved through three separate activities described below.

Activity 1

Attendees worked in groups of three to brainstorm statements that expressed Arca's purpose with the sentence stem "Arca exists to...". The resulting statements were:

1. Arca exists to create opportunities to share digital scholarship and heritage and build communities in BC and beyond for access, discovery, and knowledge creation, with cost-effective, shared infrastructure.
2. Arca exists to facilitate partnerships in knowledge sharing and creation among BC and other partners, in order to showcase, disseminate, and provide access to digital scholarship and heritage providing an efficient, cost effective solution, allowing for collaboration and innovation to best serve the entire community.
3. Arca exists to share BC's unique stories, images, and research with a global audience.

Attendees collectively edited the first statement to a point where there was a high level of satisfaction that it largely captures the spirit of why Arca exists.

Activity 2

In new groups of three, attendees brainstormed what Arca might hope to achieve in roughly three years' time. Essentially the goal was to answer the question "What is the better world that Arca will create?". After the group discussions, all attendees worked together to come up with a vision statement. Two statements were shared:

1. Arca will continue to grow by working with our current communities and engage with new partners to share our unique stories, images, and research with a global audience.

2. Arca will support all its member institutions to get the most out of their participation and continue to expand support for new kinds of content and use cases.

There was agreement that in the next little while Arca should have both an internal focus where it strives to maximize usage by its current participating organizations, and an external focus of seeking synergies with other groups to augment what Arca can offer.

Activity 3

With this vision of balancing both internal support and seeking external synergies, attendees shared their suggestions for Arca’s areas of practice in the next three years. Using the prompt questions “What is Arca going to do to achieve its vision? What will Arca offer, and how will it be done?” groups wrote down their ideas on post-it notes and placed these in the following categories (see appendix A):

	Current/Future Participating Orgs	End Users
Service		
Technology		

After discussing all the suggestions, attendees voted by placing three dots on the ideas they prioritized. The resulting ranked ideas were:

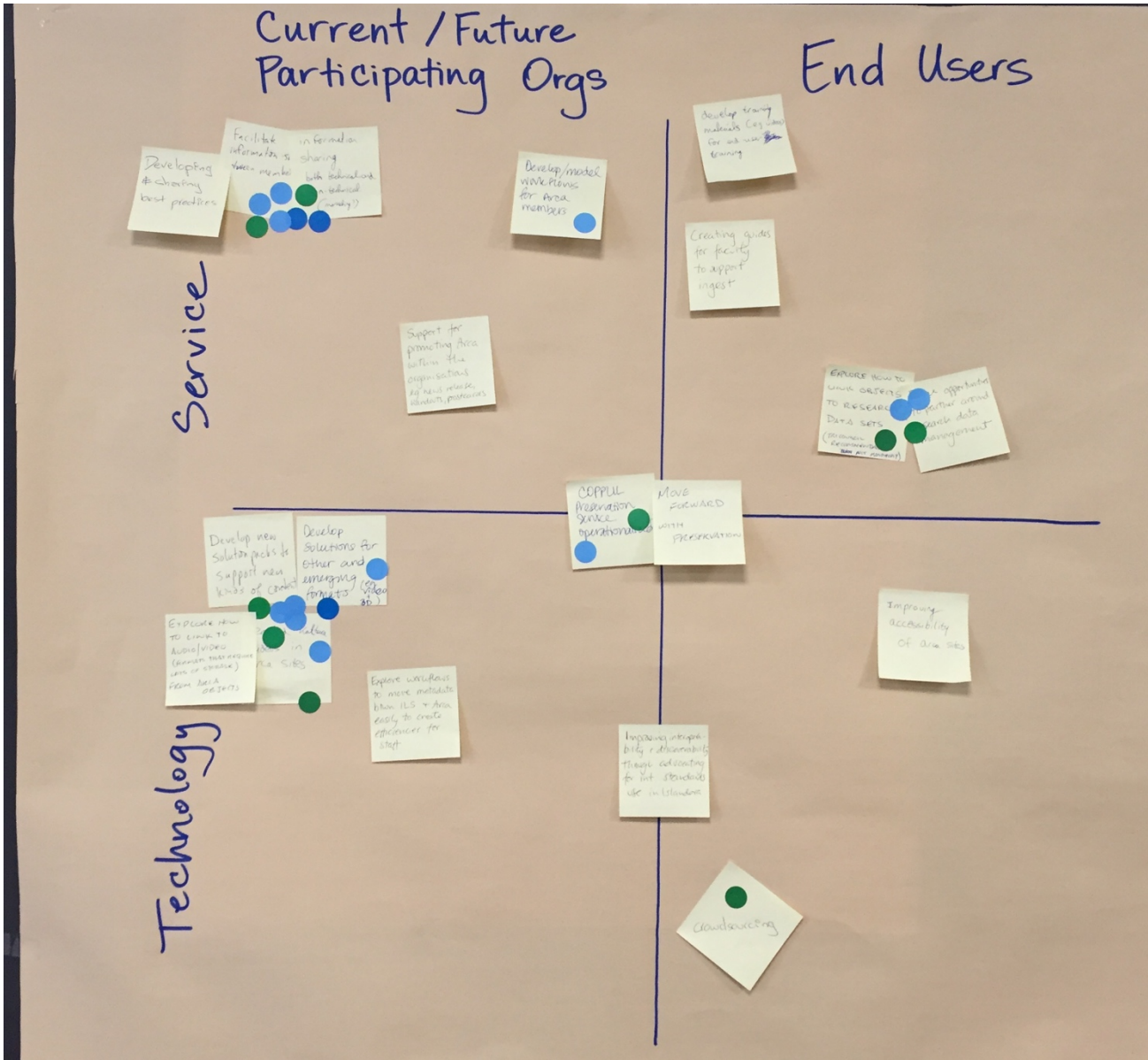
- Explore ways of supporting new kinds of content (9 votes)
- Develop and share best practices/facilitate information sharing between members (7 votes)
- Explore linking objects to research datasets/explore opportunities to partner around data management (4 votes)
- Operationalize COPPUL preservation service/Move forward with preservation (2 votes)
- Develop/model workflows for Arca members (1 vote)
- Crowdsourcing (1 vote)
- Improve accessibility of Arca sites
- Explore workflows to move metadata between ILS and Arca easily to create efficiencies for staff.
- Improve interoperability and discoverability through advocating for international standards use in Islandora.
- Support for promoting Arca within the organizations (e.g. news release, handouts, postcards)
- Develop training materials (e.g. videos) for end user training
- Create guides for faculty to support ingest

Next Steps

- The draft purpose and vision statements will be refined at a future Advisory Committee meeting.
- The list of prioritized ideas will become a set of action planning priorities.

Appendix A

Using post-it notes to record ideas, attendees worked in groups to write their suggestions for Arca's practice. Thinking in terms of Service/Technology and Participating Organizations/End Users, they answered the questions: "What is Arca going to do? What will Arca offer, and how will we do it?"



Close-ups:

