Session III: Friday, May 19th: 10:15-11:15am

Location: Lobby

Session Title: NNIP & Libraries

Organizer: Will Skora

Primary Notetaker: Rob Pitingolo

Attendees: Skora, Hwang, Pitingolo, Monk, Martin, Carter

Skora: We have a lot of local data and information is often locked away. Before the internet, you had to go to the library for congressional testimony and other kind of unique things. I’ve noticed a lot of NNIP work with local nonprofits and municipalities. We’re really tied to communities and people walking into libraries.

Monk: We love the library. I work with specific branches and training libraries on community resources. Or building a relationship directly with them. We got a good reaction from the staff. Libraries have been asked to be many things. I make sure they know I’m not giving them more work.

Hwang: We are asked to go to specific branches and for my arts and culture survey the library is the most helpful partner. Library membership is up because people go to use the computer. They help advertise our survey. I’m going to do my own outreach for Geoloom at the library. I have my own non BNIA interest in historical archiving and how that could be available for communities and planners.

Monk: We have a proposal for IMLS for an open data ecosystem and academic library partner.

Martin: We work with the library informally. The university has been convening about disappearing data from federal sites. We have done presentations to their board about changing demographics in the region. Going forward we may be partnering with them to put together data on the need for that. We talked about an IMLS grant but never landed on a specific topic or way of working together. It’s all been very informal.

Monk: We had data day at the library.

Skora: Last year we had a day of civic hacking at the library.

Martin: Is data day just for anyone?

Monk: We modeled on Detroit. It’s about discovering technology. Getting people from community to lead the sessions. The library was pleased so now we have a better space.

Marin: Is IMLS still doing grants?

Monk: We got through the first round and now need to put in another proposal.

Carter: We are trying to work with two libraries so they can become resources for us.

Hwang: Our libraries help communities when apply for grants, sometimes using BNIA data.

Carter: Do any libraries provide software? We had a situation where people were trained on data but didn’t have access to any software.

Monk: Eleanor has been trying to do that. It’s hard to figure out how to purchase a public license.

Skora: We don’t have anything.

Monk: They were doing learning circles at our library to teach people skills.

Martin: Anyone doing circulation data?

Carter: We did but circulation isn’t an important metric anymore. Some libraries counted people walking in the door. Some tried to collect homeless data. They used to collect demographics by neighborhood but I think they stopped.

Monk: Our libraries also do a lot on immigration.

Skora: We have very basic computer classes - how to use word and email.

Carter: Libraries are great meeting places because everyone knows it.

Monk: Anyone work with an academic library?

Cater: We do. We had a really great contact.