Partners in digitisation: networking preferences of memory institutions

Zinaida Manžuch
Institute of Library and Information Science
Faculty of Communication
Vilnius University

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Outline

- **Aim** – to analyse collaborative networks developed by memory institutions and determine collaboration patterns

- **Presentation contents:**
  - Collaboration: concept and demand
  - Collaboration type
  - Collaborative networks research design
  - Research findings
  - Conclusions

- This presentation is based on the research carried out in NUMERIC project
What is networking and why should we care?

- Collaborative networks – interorganisational relationships aimed at solving complex tasks
- Network society
- Digitisation as a “complex task”
  - Large-scale initiatives
  - The challenge of developing quality services
  - Inability to accumulate all resources in one institution
- Long-term responsibility
- Collaboration objectives:
  - Improvement of organisation’s internal processes/existent services (resource sharing approach)
  - Re-inventing products/services to meet external demands
Types of collaborative networks in digitisation

- ALM collaboration
- Governmental bodies/non-profits
- Cultural/research institutions
- Commercial enterprises
- Digitisation outsourcing

New services, resources
Analysis of collaborative networks

- **Research questions:**
  - To what extent archives, libraries and museums engage in collaborative networks?
  - What types of partners/contractors archives, libraries and museums tend to collaborate with the most?
  - What are the differences between collaborative networks of archives, libraries and museums?
  - Distinction between partners and contractors (outsourcing)

- **Data source:** NUMERIC survey early answers (587 respondents)

- **Method:** content analysis of comments

- **Respondents:**
  - 134 (24% of all respondents) institutions commented on partners
  - 200 (34% of all respondents) institutions commented on contractors
Findings of research

Networks of partners: size, composition & partner visibility
Comparative view on ALM partner networks
Networks of contractors: size, composition & partner visibility
Networks of partners: size

Number of partners in a network
Networks of partners: composition & visibility

- Libraries: 0.7
- Museums: 0.5
- Governmental bodies: 0.4
- Commercial enterprises: 0.3
- Archives: 0.2
- Higher education associations: 0.2
- Networks & associations: 0.2
- Research institutes: 0.1
- Non-profits: 0.07
- Others: 0.06
- Cultural institutions: 0.05
- Audiovisual institutions: 0.05

Partner organisation type
Networks of partners: ALM comparison

![Graph showing visibility index for different partner organisation types: Archives, Libraries, Museums, Governmental bodies, Commercial enterprises, Archives, Higher education, Networks & associations, Research institutes, Non-profits, Cultural institutions, Audiovisual institutions. The graph indicates varying visibility indices for each type, with Archives and Libraries showing higher visibility compared to Museums and other categories.]
Networks of contractors: size

Number of contractors in a network

1 contractor: 46%
2 contractors: 27%
3 contractors: 13%
4-9 contractors: 13%
20 contractors: 1%
Networks of contractors: composition & visibility

No significant differences between ALM networks

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No significant ALM networks

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Commercial enterprises: 77%
Private persons: 13%
Higher education: 2%
Libraries: 2%
Archives: 1%
Governmental bodies: 1%
Research institutes: 1%
Non-profits: 1%
Cultural institutions: 1%
Conclusions

- Low engagement into collaboration practices
- Preferences for safe and well-known collaboration types
- Orientation at resource sharing but less at developing new services
- Libraries – the most active collaborators
- Archives & museums – more open to networking with institutions of other type
- The need for further research and qualitative data:
  - What are the goals and expected outcomes of collaboration?
  - What are the relationships with current partners/contractors?
Thank you for attention!

Zinaida Manžuch
zinaida.manzuch@mb.vu.lt
Institute of Library and Information Science
Faculty of Communication