

The Congress - Facilitation Template

Workshop facilitators	Depending on numbers the ratio should be approximately 1:5
Room setup	Cabaret seating or sets of chairs set in circles of 6 or 7. This workshop can only take place in a separate room and not an open space.
Tech/equipment	None unless microphone is needed
Documentation	Camera for documentation
Materials	Post-it notes (200mm x 149mm), marker pens, A4 blank paper, printed extracts of text from Borges. Materials are placed in the middle of the groups of seating. Each group will look at a different text. If there is a budget each participant receives a book of Borges short stories.
Catering	Refreshments if needed
Workshop length	1 - 2 hours (Depending on how long the facilitators want to explore the stories)

Rationale	The workshop is a creative approach that encourages participants to think about data in a different way, taking cues from selected texts that are read and discussed within the group. Borges is chosen as an author as his work explores areas such as taxonomy, cartography, archiving and myth, that are relevant today as they were when they were written. Borges's stories are often very short - some as short as a paragraph - which makes them ideal workshop material.
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Time	Activity	Lead	Materials needed	Learning Outcome
00.00	People arrive and are allowed to sit anywhere. Facilitators will be allocated and be seated within each group of chairs			
00.05	Congress announcement <i>“The Congress of Assayers of Significant Meaning, Cartographers of the Infinite Map, Archivists of the Grand Library of Babel and the Enumerators of Knowledge from the Known and Hidden Universe. Quantifiers of Self and Others, Readers of Antiquity, Projectors of What is Yet to Come, Masters of Syntactic Complexity, Superiors of the Previous. Taxonomists, Ontologists, Diviners, Mixologists. Of Those that are Crazily Agitated and the Ones Who Appear Like Flies From Afar.</i> <i>The Congress Is now in session. You are all welcome.”</i>	Chosen facilitator	This piece should be rehearsed so that it sets the tone for the workshop. It should be delivered in a theatrical way if possible	To create bewilderment and intrigue and to reinforce that the workshop is a creative experience that will encourage different thinking.
00.06	Explanation of how session will run Each facilitator stands up. A nominated facilitator then explains how the workshop will run and the purpose of the workshop. Participants are told to sit in one of the groups of groups. Participants should then be equally spread across groups	All facilitators. Nominated facilitator to explain the next stage of the workshop		Allocate people to groups. This also allows people to select groups if different languages are being used
00.15	Group reading and discussion Each participant is given a selected text and the facilitator reads through the text and a discussion is started. Key points to cover are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the writer trying to convey? 	All facilitators	Selected texts should be taken from stories that are relevant to the	Participants become acquainted with the texts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the text relate to the present? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What time is it set in? ○ Does the time have similarities with the present? • How does the text relate to the current practice? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are there similarities? ○ What are the differences? • Does the text propose a future? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is this future inevitable? <p>Facilitators should help everyone to participate, spreading the conversational opportunity evenly.</p> <p>Facilitator should write down main points of discussion on A4 paper in marker pen as this will allow people to reference when writing the poem</p>		audience. A4 paper and pens	
00.40	<p>Writing a poem</p> <p>Participants each have to write a sentence or paragraph inspired by the reading and discussion. Text can be creative, abstract or concrete. The facilitator should also participate referencing the discussion.</p> <p>Participants should be encouraged to write as many post-it notes as they can.</p>		Post-it notes Marker pens A4 paper	Documenting creative thinking about how participants practice relates to text.
01.00	<p>Constructing the poem.</p> <p>Participants stick Post-it notes on wall and encouraged to stick the notes in the order that they want. This could end up as a cluster, a line, a grid, etc.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to discuss the positioning of post-its drawing relationships from position. These could be creative - flow, rhythm concept or subject specific.</p>			Creates a relational picture of how the thoughts correspond or juxtapose.
01.15	Poem explanation			Each group gets to see what the other

	Participants in their groups move through each poem. The facilitator speaks the poem and then gives context as to the Borges text used and discussion that came from it Participants then are asked to sit			groups created in relation to the Borges text read.
01.20	Whole group feedback Nominated facilitator asks for participants to feedback to group what they discovered during the workshop and if there was a 'Eureka' moment			Spark conversation and feedback from a personal perspective.
01.30	People are now accepted in to the congress Nominated facilitator repeats introduction statement putting ' <i>You are now all members of The Congress of...</i> '			

This workshop was first developed by Juan Ortiz Frueler, Alma Rangel, Mor Rubinstein, Andres Snitcofsky and Julian Tait at IODC 18