Kelly McElroy

LFI Week 14

Three-month check-in

**What has had the most impact?**

In terms of content, there’s no single thing that jumps out – I think I’ve said this before, but LFI really has been the needed kick in the pants for me to dig more closely into the details of things that I already knew were creepy and bad. I will say that some of the big picture concepts (e.g. data minimization, harm reduction) have been very useful for teaching and advocacy. As far as the program goes overall, just the recognition and time have been invaluable. I have been able to have conversations with folks in all units of my library, including our director, and from various parts of campus. Because LFI is A Recognized Thing, my voice is amplified in incredibly useful ways. This is partly due to the reputation of LFP (go Alison!!!!) but also just that we are all putting in the work. The structure of LFI really makes this possible – again, really grateful for the recognition from my institution from the outset that I would be spending at least 5 hours a week on this work. LFI is fundamentally changing my work. Also, totally copying Bryan: our cohort is fantastic. I have learned a tonne from everyone, and it has also been helpful to be able to share other library contexts as I talk to our peers. (Allie, I keep sharing the example about the reference folks in your library do, and why Tor is such a meaningful tool for that work.)

**How have you already applied what you learned? What new programs or services are you working on?**

Some of this has been piecemeal, but I’ll group things into a few overarching categories:

* *Relationship building:* LFI has been a great excuse to have conversations with staff and faculty in other parts of campus about issues of privacy. This has already led to some training and other consultation work, and I expect this to continue to build over time. Within the library, I’ve been talking to folks who actually do the work related to some of the library-specific issues (e.g. vendor relations), but I really need to do a lot more of that.
* *Training:* 
  + *For library folks*: As I wrote about, I did a session for our library’s in-service, and will be hosting a series of drop-in sessions as part of our tech unit’s open hours. With a colleague in the computer science department, I’ve written a very tentative proposal for a sort of statewide LFI, as part of the CyberOregon work. (No idea when we will hear more on that, but will keep y’all posted!) I am also working on a proposal for a daylong workshop for our consortium of 30+ libraries – we’re writing a grant for it, but I’m kinda hoping we can do it even if we don’t get funding for it.
  + *For non-library folks*: I’m on the list for a new series of pop-up tech workshops that will be launching later this year, and I just got an email today asking me to teach about financial security and
* *Miscellaneous*: We’ll be hosting the Glass Room Experience, and that piqued interest in our admin in bringing a speaker around the same time. My department suggested some promotional slides we could add in our classrooms and on the kiosks around the library about why we have DuckDuckGo as a default search engine, and about other topics.

**What do you want to focus on for your final project?**

I am having a hard time focusing in on this, because I feel like there’s a million little things out there that I’m dabbling in or investigating. However, I think the following make sense as logical next steps/things I’m already kind of planning to do:

* Outline the intended curriculum for a daylong training for librarians, regionally. Like I said above, I’m working on a proposal for some funding through the Orbis-Cascade Alliance, but if that doesn’t come through, I might approach the state library association or just try to freewheel it. (If we hosted it at OSU, we might be able to get people come for a day anyway…actually, I might be able to repeat it at the new building in Portland, and out in Bend, which would attract a more varied audience. Hmm…)
* Create a suite of activities for general audience learning on specific topics, tools, etc. I think a lot of what we’ve all been coming up with would fit in here, so it might be something like, making a guide that my colleagues at OSU could also dip into, and that could also double for marketing to share around campus what we can offer.
* Make some kind of evaluative test for myself so I can go back and demonstrate what I have actually learned. The range of what we have covered is so huge, I find myself struggling sometimes to summarize it, so this would really be some kind of selfish summative reflective learning assessment.