

Proposal to Change the WPLC Technology Governance and Committee Structure

February 2024

Summary

The Technology Collaboration Steering Committee, along with the Technology Backup Steering, Digital Archives Backup Steering and Technology Operations Committees, are recommending changes to the WPLC governance and committee structure to streamline current and potential projects and foster and encourage technology-related discussions and collaborations.

Background

The WPLC Technology Collaborative Technology Steering and Operations Committees were formed in June of 2020. The Steering Committee is charged with reviewing proposals from the Operations Committee as well as being responsible for:

- Developing member agreements for members participating in a collaboration initiative
- Soliciting legal advice when necessary
- Developing budgets and breakdown of costs and fees for a collaboration initiative
- Recruiting and recommending a Fiscal Agent from systems participating in a collaboration initiative.
- Submitting collaboration initiative proposals to the WPLC Board.

The Technology Collaborations Operations Committee is responsible for driving technology collaboration. They identify appropriate projects for collaboration, create implementation plans, solicit proposals from vendors, and present proposals to the Technology Collaboration Steering Committee.

The Technology Backup and Digital Archives Backup Steering Committees were formed in 2022. The Technology Backup Steering Committee provides project expertise, develops overall project budget needs, and offers a governance structure for the backup collaboration project. Similarly, the Digital Archives Backup Steering Committee provides project expertise, develops overall project budget needs, and offers a governance structure for the digital archives backup collaboration project.

Proposed Changes and Benefits

The Committees are recommending the following changes.

- The Technology Backup and Digital Archives Backup Steering Committees become workgroups that report to the Technology Steering Committee

- This will allow the two groups more flexibility to complete tasks. The Committees currently are small and have had issues obtaining a quorum to even hold a meeting as is required for Steering Committees in the WPLC Bylaws.
- The two groups have moved past the initial governance setup stage and are focused on project continuation.
- Moving these two groups under the Technology Steering Committee will allow for more support from the Technology Steering Committee to provide budgetary and project guidance.
- The Technology Operations Committee becomes a Library Technology Community of Practice for System IT folks.
 - This committee has struggled with moving projects forward for the past two years due to a lack of ownership of the potential projects.
 - There has been some overlap with this group and the statewide Tech Talk system IT group.
 - The Tech Talk system IT group would morph into this new System IT Technology Community of Practice.
 - This body will start meeting every other month, with no formal agenda.
 - The group will not report to the Technology Steering Committee, but a Liaison from that Committee will be a part of the Community of Practice.
 - Any new project ideas that the Community of Practice feels would be good potential projects maybe shared with the Technology Steering committee for consideration and the development of a project workgroup to move the project forward.
- All three of these groups will be under the auspices of the Technology Collaborations Steering Committee.
 - This change will allow the Technology Steering Committee the opportunity to help maintain the current technology projects while fostering new ideas and supporting the growth of new potential projects.

