Teaching Digital Collection Building Skills: The Public Library Partnerships Project

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Goals

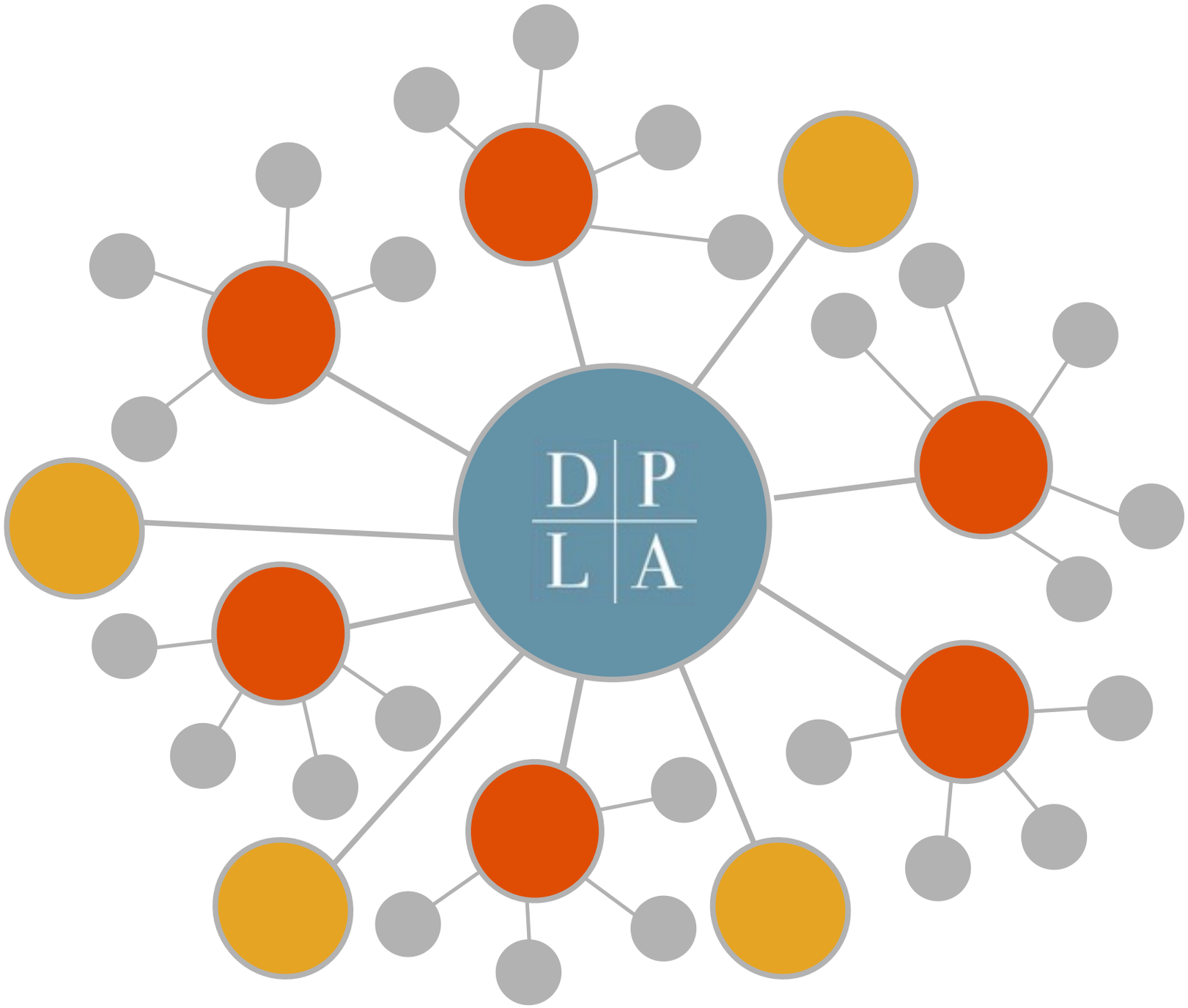
1. Provide an avenue for **training public librarians** in digital skills related to:

    content selection
    copyright
    scanning/imaging
    metadata
    writing for the web
    digital exhibition curation

Goals

2. **Foster sustainable partnerships** between DPLA Service Hubs and public libraries for long-term digitization and digital collections-building support

- Georgia: **Digital Library of Georgia**
- Massachusetts: **Digital Commonwealth**
- Minnesota: **Minnesota Digital Library**
- Montana and Utah: **Mountain West Digital Library**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Goals

3. Create new pathways for **public library participation** in DPLA

4. Share a self-guided version of **project curriculum** for free online

Project Stages

1. One day digital skills training workshops

2. Participants select and digitize content with support from DPLA Service Hubs

3. Hour-long exhibition building training webinar

4. Participants collaboratively curate DPLA exhibitions that draw from their newly digitized content

Rationale

DPLA is a public project guided by a shared principle with public libraries:

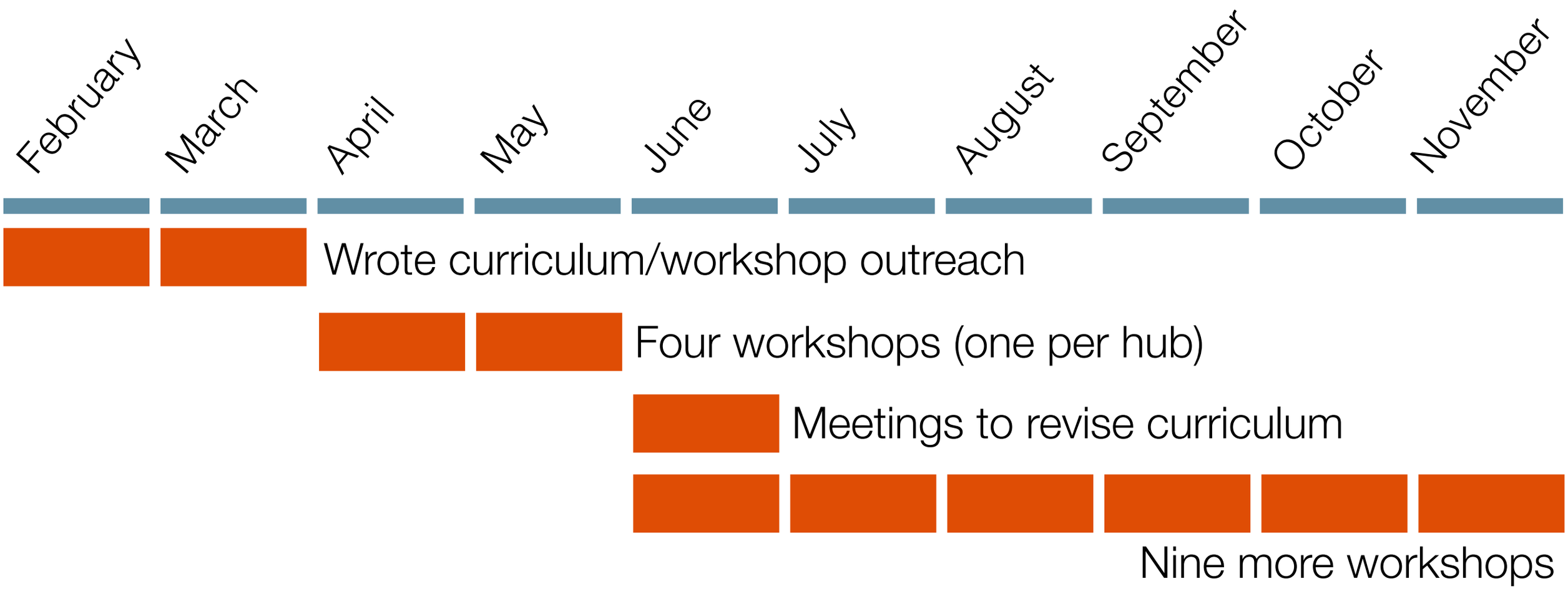
the public should be given free and unfettered access to content.

Rationale

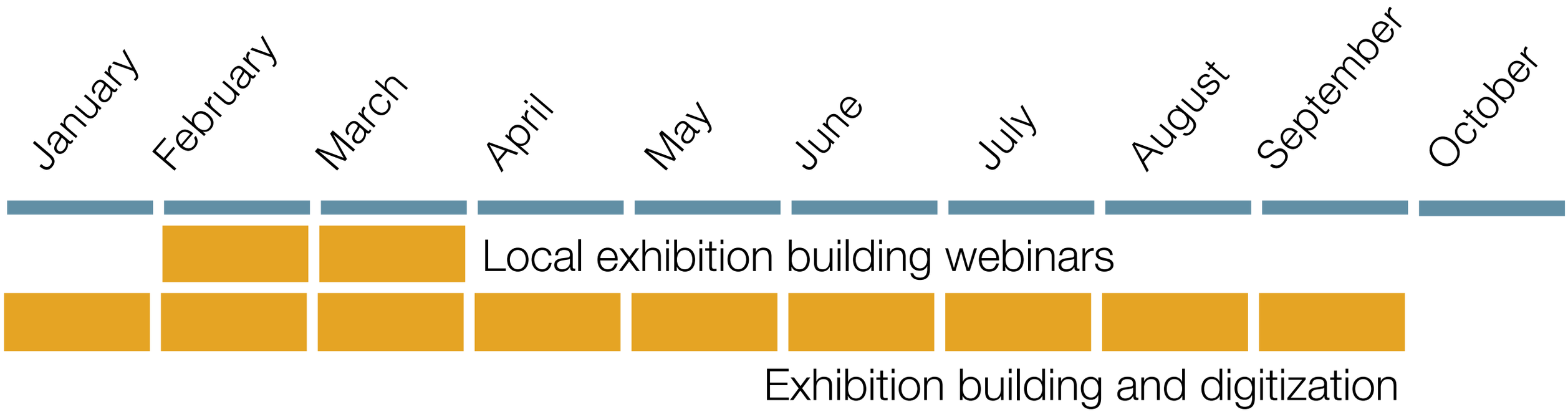
We want to build partnerships with public libraries.

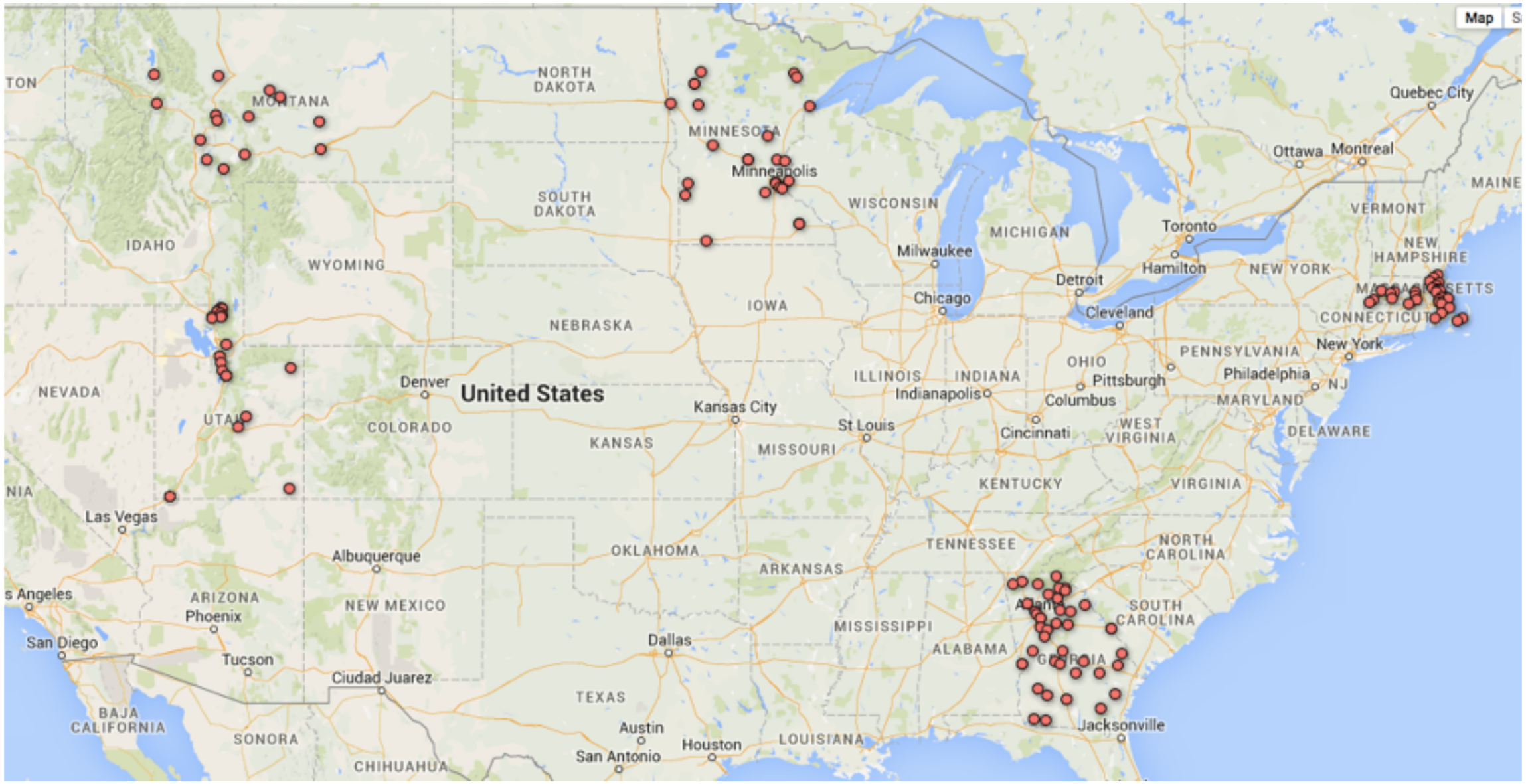
We knew public librarians would be great curators because of their expertise with local content and users' needs.

Progress: 2014



Progress: 2015

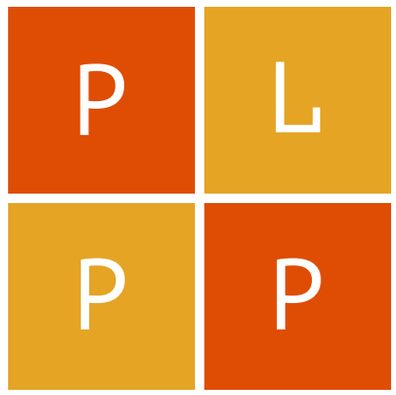




151 participants from 134 institutions

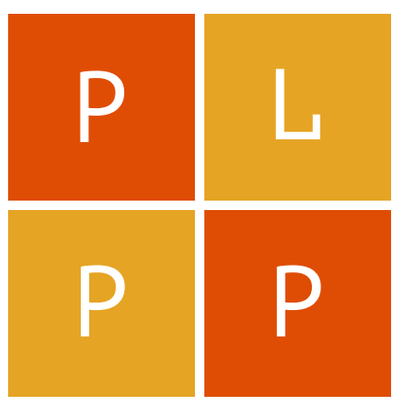
Lessons Learned: Public Libraries

- **Outreach**: how do we get the word out to interested institutions?
- **Content**: do public libraries have stuff to digitize?
- **Resources**: can public libraries devote energy to this kind of project?



Lessons Learned:Curriculum

- **Survey feedback**: 98% of participants were very satisfied or satisfied with the training.
  - 95% identified the level as "**just right**."
  - Copyright and metadata require **detailed presentation** and in-session, hands-on practice
  - Importance of teaching **digitization as a process**
  - Importance of **ongoing support** for issues and questions



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GATES foundation

Boston Public Library & Digital Commonwealth

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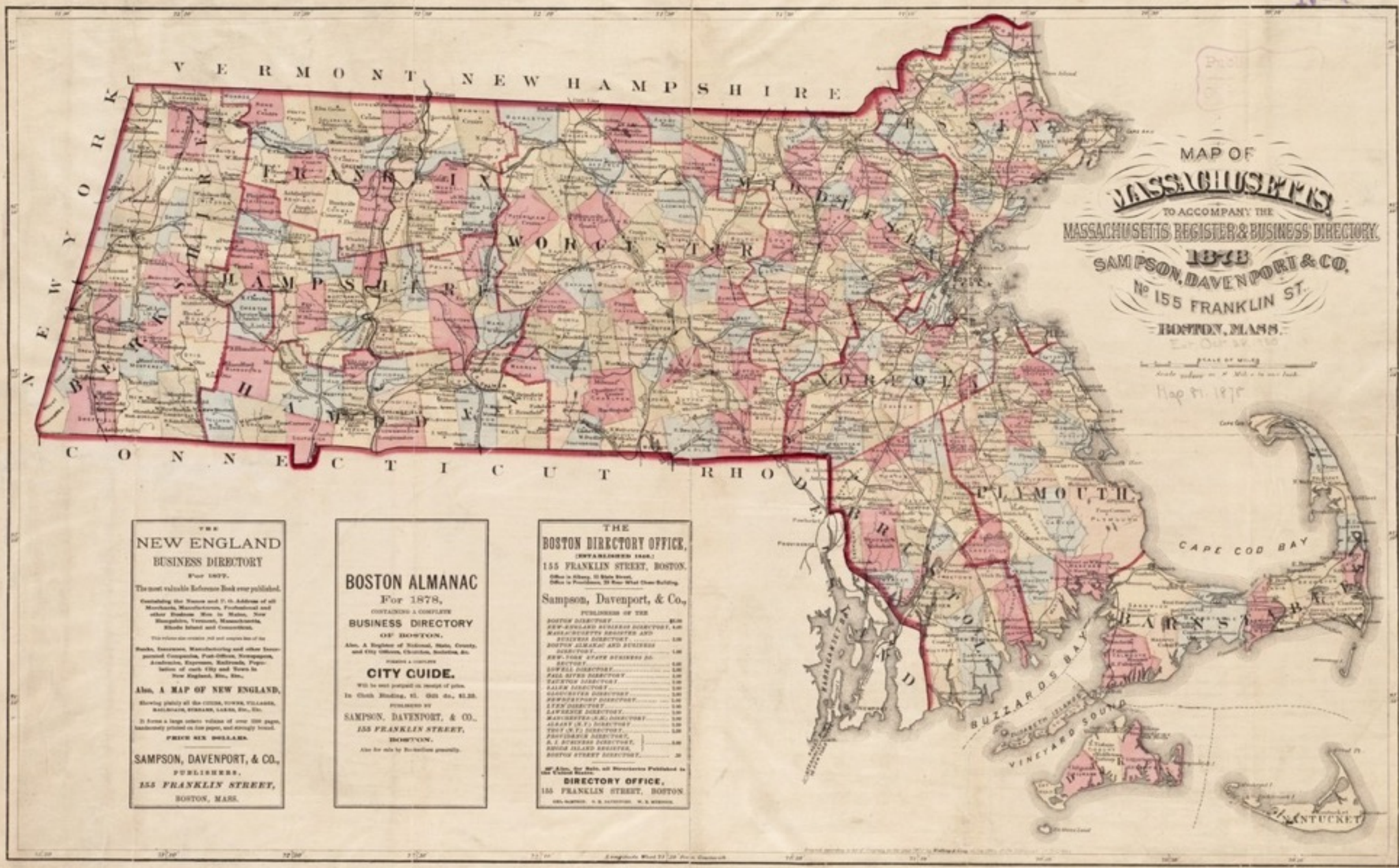
MAP OF
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Bound items → Internet Archive

Non bound items → BPL imaging lab

Three workshops

Too much detail

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A New & accurate MAP of the WEST INDIES and the adjacent Parts of North & South AMERICA.

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FLORIDA
GULF OF MEXICO
ATLANTIC OCEAN
BAHAMA ISLANDS
Tropic of Cancer
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JAMAICA
DOMINGO
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CARIBBEAN SEA
LITTLE ANTILLES
CARIBBEE ISLANDS
SOUTH AMERICA
TERRA FIRMA
DARIEN

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Finding a balance

The Future
NEXT EXIT

The end.

Anna Fahey-Flynn
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Collaborative Services Manager
Boston Public Library

THE PLPP EXPERIENCE AT MOUNTAIN WEST DIGITAL LIBRARY

Sandra McIntyre
MWDL Director

Full workshops

- 37 participants in 3 cohorts
  - 2 Utah cohorts
  - 1 Montana cohort

Workshop at Utah State Library, May 2014

Excellent venues and staff

Helena, Montana workshop, November 2014

- Rebekah Cummings
  MWDL Assistant Director/Outreach Librarian

- Anna Neatrour
  MWDL Digital Metadata Librarian

- Jennifer Birnel
  Director, Montana Memory Project

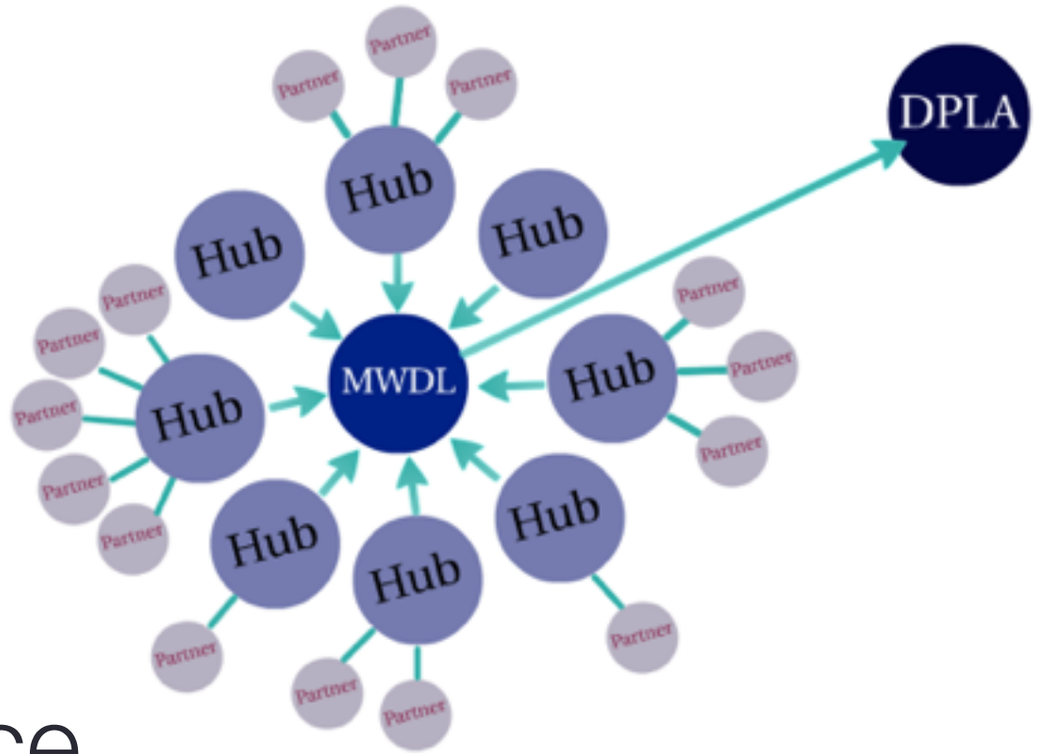
Solid curriculum

- "Just right" level and "just right" length
- Working in Confluence = four hubs strengthened curriculum
- Ready for repurposing with new audiences

Helena, Montana workshop, November 2014

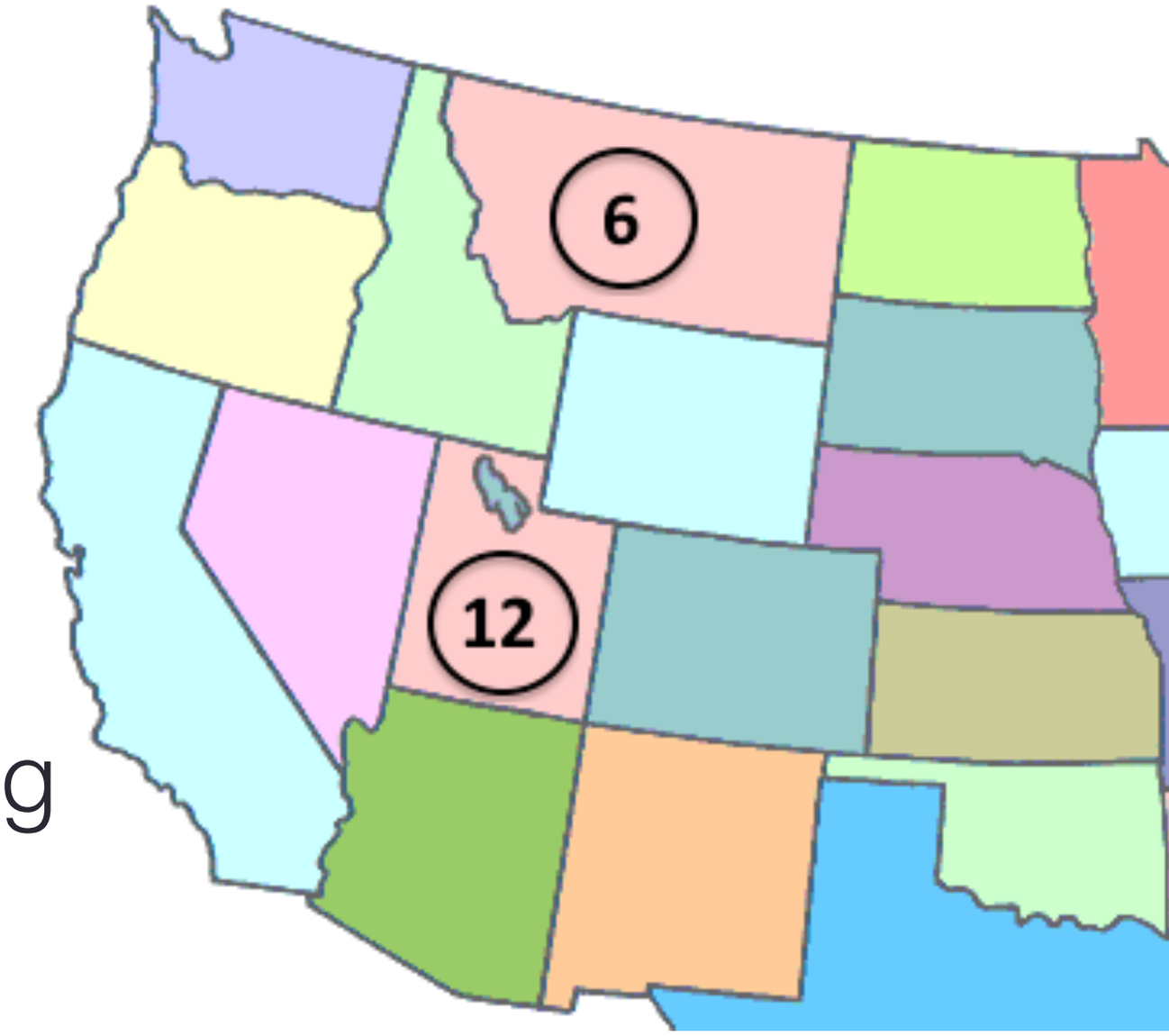
Detailed, persistent follow up

- Matching each participant to Hosting Hub
- Questions about workflow
- Metadata support:
  - Templates
  - Metadata clinics online
  - Telephone calls 1:1
- Exhibit theme web-conference



New digital projects

- Utah: 12 new digital collections
- Montana: 6 new collections
- $9,000 in Gates funding for digital services to MWDL hubs



Teaming up

- Involvement of library director was key
- Best work came from two-person teams
- Teaming up with other local memory institutions
  - Morgan County Library + Morgan County Historical Society
  - Castle Dale Public Library + Emery County Archives
  - Richmond Public Library + Daughters of the Utah Pioneers

Recruitment and attrition issues

- Small staffs – “I can’t get away for a training day”
- Lack of materials in some cases
- Natural disasters: flood in Washington County Library
- Digital collections still not a high priority, particularly for small public libraries

Lessons for later

- Spread out the timeframe for performance
- Pick time of year carefully
- Enhance cohort support with more teaming – all pairs?
- Follow-on support is expensive to provide
- Would totally do it again!

Questions?

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