

TO: Core Board of Directors

TOPIC: Assessment Section Dissolution

ACTION / INFORMATION / REPORT: ACTION

ACTION REQUESTED BY: Margaret Heller, Core President; Andrea Berstler, Core Director-at-Large; Soo-yeon Hwang, Assessment Section Leadership Team Chair

SUBMITTED: January 25, 2023

SUMMARY

Membership interest in and capacity for the Assessment Section is not enough to sustain a section, but the need for the topic in the division remains important. Moving the section to a series of committees and interest groups within other Core structures will help ensure that member needs for assessment professional community are addressed more appropriately. This current version of the action reflects board and member comments at the January 9, 2023 board meeting.

BACKGROUND

Assessment is a key piece of all the elements of work within Core. However, the Assessment Section has not been the most effective structure for providing professional leadership in the area. Board-level discussions about the feasibility of the Assessment Section began in 2021, but with the inability to recruit volunteers for the section leadership team the board determined it was necessary to plan reorganization. On October 21, 2022, Margaret Heller (Core President), Andrea Berstler (the board liaison to the Assessment section), Soo-yeon Hwang (the sole member of the Assessment section leadership team), Michael Holt (has historical knowledge of assessment activities and section planning), and Jenny Levine, Core Staff held a meeting to plan next steps.

After some discussion of the needs for assessment in libraries and considerations of different library types, the group discussed what an appropriate structure might be given the current capacity and organizational realities. Most people who do assessment work for their jobs are located in administrative units of libraries. We know there is a strong interest in assessment professional development content, as well as professional networking for people working in assessment. The current structure of the section is:

- [Leadership Team](#)
- [Assessment and Research](#)
- [Library Assessment Repository](#)

None of these committees is fully staffed. The Assessment and Research Committee was meant to assess Core itself, and the Library Assessment Repository Committee manages the [assessment repository](#), though there have been few if any changes since the transition from LLAMA. One interest

group exists and is active: [Collection Evaluation & Assessment](#), and can be moved within the Metadata & Collections Section.

The group agreed that a reasonable approach would be to create one Assessment Committee that would be located in the Leadership & Management Section, and the committee would be formed by the L&M Leadership Team. That committee would be primarily focused on professional development and community-building, including review and maintenance of the assessment repository. This committee could make resources available to other groups interested in assessing Core, but would not be performing the original duties of the Assessment and Research Committee as they originally stood to work on Core-related assessment projects.

Andrea Berstler and Margaret Heller drafted a new charge, which the Bylaws Committee briefly reviewed, and will need to undergo a period of member review and comment before it can officially be created.

Assessment Committee Leadership & Management Section

The Assessment Committee provides a community focusing on library assessment, evaluation, and measurement regardless of type of library or activity. It is intended to cultivate a network of assessment professionals around best practices, theory and models of assessment, providing a place for continual improvement and growth of assessment practice within the library community and emphasizing the role of assessment in demonstrating the impact of a library. The committee is responsible for maintaining the Library Assessment Repository.

Activities might include:

- Recommending and developing tools, methods, guidelines, standards, policies, and procedures
- Planning and delivering webinars, programs, publications, project, and discussion groups
- Seeking opportunities to collaborate within the community

Number of Members: 6-8, including chair and vice-chair

ACTION REQUESTED

This proposal requests the Core Board to vote to dissolve the Assessment Section, and redistribute its current responsibilities to existing and future committees.