Blockchain for Librarians Working Group:

August 12, 2019
Introductions - Working Group Members

- Steering Committee
  - Katherine Scott, SLA Toronto
  - Sapanpreet Narang, Prescient Innovations

- Working Group Members
  - Allan Bell, University of British Columbia Library
  - Caroline Coward, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory / Caltech
  - Sherry Fahim & Sukh Jatana, Hamilton Public Library
  - Kris Joseph, York University Libraries
  - Daniella Levy-Pinto, National Network for Equitable Library Service
  - Sarah Lin, Singularity University
  - Mingxin Liu, MIST Candidate / University of Toronto
  - Catherine MacGregor, Ontario Securities Commission
  - Jennifer McNenly, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP
  - Stephen Sawyer, Prescient Innovations
  - Jaqueline Woolcott, Moody’s Investors Service
Why Blockchain for Libraries?

- Potential impact on the organization, storage, dissemination, preservation, access and retrieval of information
- Already impacting other sectors (financial, government, health care, the arts, etc...)
- If we’re not part of the conversation we lose our agency for shaping the future of this technology
- What happens when decentralized content distribution and lending platforms are developed without librarians?
  - This is already happening....
Our Goal – Deliverable

• Create an Open Access position paper detailing our point of view on blockchain and defining the most viable and transformative blockchain use cases for information science.
Our Path

• Create Definitions
• Research
  • Fundamentals of blockchain
  • What are others discovering in Information Science?
  • What are other relevant startups doing? Can this be applied to I.S.?
  • What are current problems library patrons/customers are facing?
  • What are current problems information professionals are facing?
• Develop Community Connections
• Reshaping the Process with a POV paper – Think Big!
Timelines

• Month 1 August/September – Initiate Working Group
  • Create Project Charter
  • Create a website detailing this initiative – SLA Toronto
  • Develop a definition for blockchain and related technologies (e.g. Smart Contracts)

• Month 2-3 September/October – Research
  • Detail current issues facing the information profession and related sectors
  • Research blockchain applications beyond information science to discover what’s being developed and what’s possible
  • Connect with the larger library community that is researching blockchain, discover what’s being worked on currently and what’s already been done

• Month 4-6 November/January – Develop Position Paper
  • Define possible blockchain use cases applicable to information science
  • Create a position paper detailing transformative blockchain use cases
  • Detail a plan for developing a proof of concept
Suggested Style

Communication

Resources
• Appear.in
• Slack
• SLA Toronto Website
• SLA Open Forum

Frequency
• Once a Month vs Bi-Monthly

- Decision to meet once a month
Updates

- OLA Superconference
  - OLITA Tech Talk
- Other Conferences for 2020?
Month 1 – Definitions

- What is a blockchain?
- What do the terms used to explain a blockchain mean?
- How do we define terms often associated with blockchain?
  - Smart Contracts
  - Decentralization
  - Immutable
  - Others…

WHAT IS BLOCKCHAIN?
P2P + Cryptography + Behavioural Economics

“In essence, the Blockchain is a shared, programmable, cryptographically secure and therefore trusted ledger which no single user controls and which can be inspected by anyone.”

KLAUS SCHWAB
The Fourth Industrial Revolution
- Need to explain what these terms mean. At what point is something decentralized or immutable?
Open Discussion...
For Next Meeting...

- Create Slack channel – Stephen
- Post deck to Slack w. meeting notes – Stephen
- Finalize Project Charter – Stephen
  - Post on Slack for review - Working group
  - Once Finalized post to SLA Toronto site – SLA Toronto
- Definitions for blockchain & related terms – Working Group
- Where else can we present research paper? – Working Group
Introductory Resources

- **History & Overview**
  - How does blockchain work: [https://youtu.be/SSo_ElwHSd4](https://youtu.be/SSo_ElwHSd4)
  - Understand the Blockchain in 2 Minutes: [https://youtu.be/r43LhSUUGTQ](https://youtu.be/r43LhSUUGTQ)
  - Blockchain 101: A Visual Demo [https://youtu.be/FA2sq4xrx60](https://youtu.be/FA2sq4xrx60)
  - Bitcoin Whitepaper: [https://bitcoin.org/bitcoin.pdf](https://bitcoin.org/bitcoin.pdf)
  - A Brief History of Blockchain: [https://hbr.org/2017/02/a-brief-history-of-blockchain](https://hbr.org/2017/02/a-brief-history-of-blockchain)
  - How Does a Blockchain Work in 7 Steps: [https://blog.goodaudience.com/blockchain-for-beginners-what-is-blockchain-519db8cd677a](https://blog.goodaudience.com/blockchain-for-beginners-what-is-blockchain-519db8cd677a)

- **Smart Contracts**