

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

<https://outlierventures.io/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Token-Ecosystem-Creation-Outlier-Ventures-PDF.pdf>

Communication

Resources

- [Appear.in](#)
- [Slack](#)
- [SLA Toronto Website](#)
- [SLA Open Forum](#)

Frequency

- **Once a Month vs Bi-Monthly**

8

- Decision to meet once a month

Updates

- OLA Superconference
 - OLITA Tech Talk
- Other Conferences for 2020?

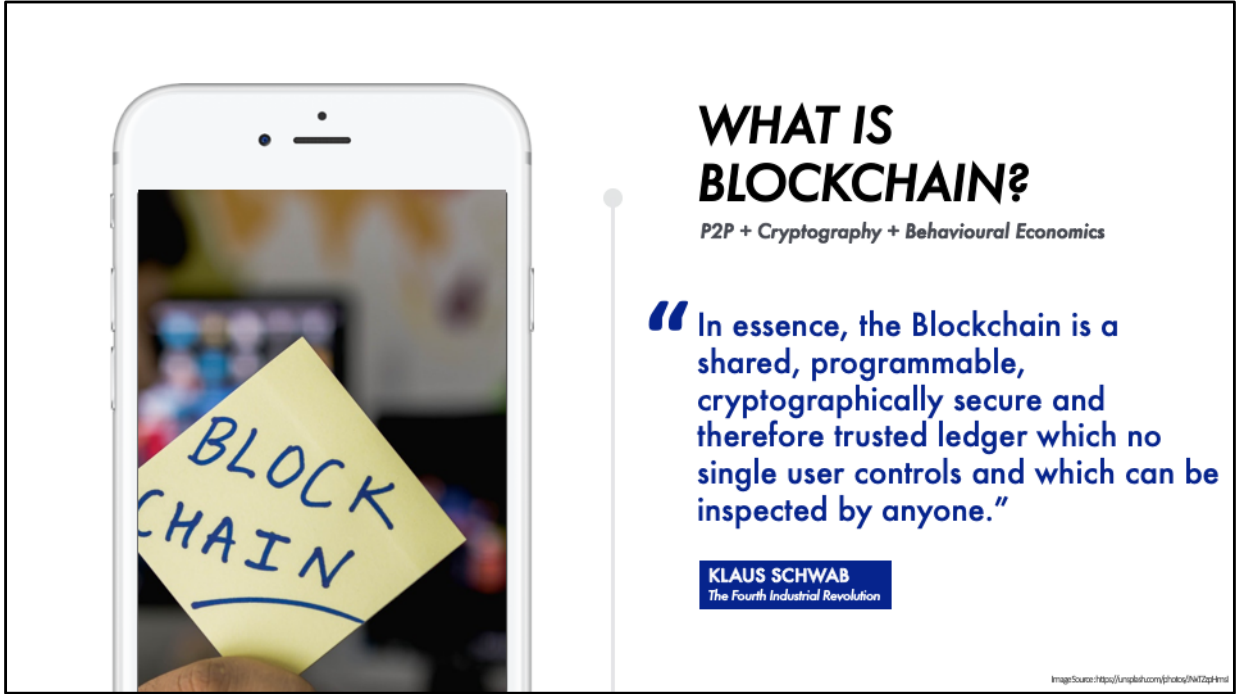
Month 1 – Definitions

- 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...

10

- Allan – See InterPares definition:

<http://arstweb.clayton.edu/interlex/blockchain/term.php?term=blockchain>



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

Image Source: <https://unsplash.com/photos/2MTZpHml>

Characteristics of Blockchain



12

- 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
- Understand the Blockchain in 2 Minutes: <https://youtu.be/r43LhSUUGTQ>
- Blockchain 101: A Visual Demo <https://youtu.be/FA2sq4xrx60>
- Bitcoin Whitepaper: <https://bitcoin.org/bitcoin.pdf>
- A Visual Guide to Blockchain: <http://graphics.reuters.com/TECHNOLOGY-BLOCKCHAIN/010070P11GN/index.html>
- 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-519db8c6677a>

- **Smart Contracts**

- History of Blockchain & Smart Contracts <https://blog.modex.tech/a-brief-history-of-blockchain-smart-contracts-and-their-implementation-c3ac6f00f014>
- Ethereum Whitepaper: <https://github.com/ethereum/wiki/wiki/White-Paper>