

Blockchain for Librarians Working Group

October 23, 2019



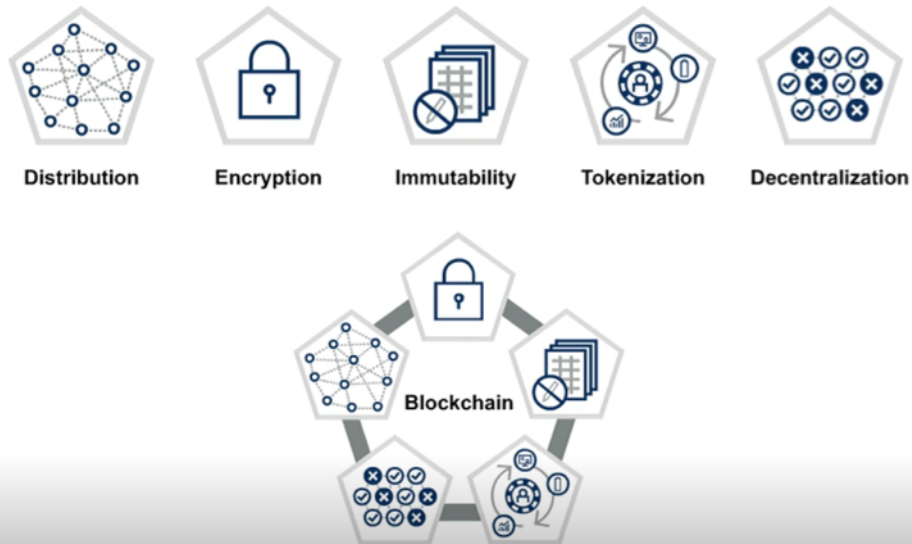
Agenda

- Working Group Updates
- Blockchain Definitions
- Issues in Information Science

Working Group Updates

- Project Charter and Meeting Notes #1 are up on
 - <https://connect.sla.org/toronto/get-involved/blockchain-working-group/meetings>
- Add Working Group Profiles?
- Submitted Application to SLA Annual Conference

The Definition of Blockchain: 5 Core Elements



Gartner Webinar shared by Caroline on Slack:

The real business of blockchain: [David Furlonger, Christophe Uzureau](https://hbsp.harvard.edu/product/10292-PDF-ENG?itemFindingMethod=Catalog)
<https://hbsp.harvard.edu/product/10292-PDF-ENG?itemFindingMethod=Catalog>

- Distribution - P2P transactions
- Encryption - pseudonymous
- Immutability - hard to make fraudulent copies
- Tokenization - ability to tokenize any asset
- Decentralization - fundamental to blockchain

This is more about characteristics than a definition

Requirements vs Associated Terms

REQUIREMENTS

- Digital Ledger
- Sequenced Transactions
- Hash Functions
- Timestamp

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Decentralization
- Peer to Peer (no intermediaries)
- Public/Private Key Cryptography
- Consensus Mechanisms
- Immutable / Permanent
- Distributed Ledger/Database
- Open / Publicly Accessible / Transparent
- Secure
- Transfer of Value
- Tokenization



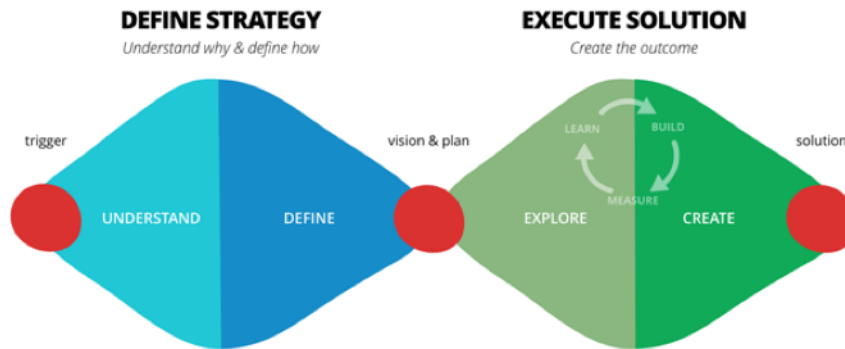
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Terms to be added to required characteristics of a blockchain

- Consensus mechanism (implies peer to peer)
- Tokenization
- Visibility is not necessary – you could have a blockchain unviewable to the public

Researching Issues in Information Science

Design Thinking



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Double_diamond.gif

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Design Thinking Double Diamond – Discover - Define – Develop - Deliver
Start with a Statement: Guess, Belief or Fact
Then Validate through research – design interviews
This could be a process we use for our research

Issues In Library Science

Issues...

- Erosion of Faith in Objective Information
- Decline in Reading
- Record of Badges & Certificates
- Usability / Inclusivity / Accessibility
- Controlled Digital Lending
- Open Education Resources
- Information/Technology Literacy

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- Special Librarian Interviews: Pains – demonstrating value to upper management
- Academic Librarians: Pains – Budgets – Copyright – Use of alternative resources (e.g. Google)
- Need more of a discussion on ‘Usability’ and making content usable – Need to be more inclusive
- Even public libraries are sometimes inaccessible
- Concerned about access to information
 - Often content needs to be modified to make it accessible. Sometimes this requires circumventing DRM. The structure of files require changes
 - There needs to be more work by the publishers to make content that is born accessible.
 - Example, publishers inserting a table as an image. That is tough to work with from an accessibility point of view
 - There is a lack of awareness to make content compliant with WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines developed by the W3C)
 - Concern about accessibility that blockchain may introduce for users requiring assistive technology (e.g. screen readers and screen magnifiers) to access content
 - Coala IP whitepaper discusses how blockchain could replicate the

worst of DRM. It could present greater challenges for those that need to circumvent DRM for accessibility reasons.

- *“...Smart contracts could also be used to replicate the worst of DRM. Smart contracts could be written to restrict the use of content rather than encouraging use by limiting the ways content can be reused or shared. For example, a smart contract could require payment every time an ebook page is turned, or charge a micropayment for saving in a videogame. It will be important to discourage these applications and to encourage developers to employ models that respect their customers and do not create unnecessary barriers to accessing content.”*
- <https://github.com/COALAIP/specs/blob/master/presentations/COALA%20IP%20Report%20-%20May%202016.pdf>
- A big problem is basic technology and information literacy
- Controlled digital lending - <https://controldigitalending.org/>
 - Libraries are interested in this, but they have to implement themselves
 - This removes the need for DRM
 - Allows libraries to have eBook equivalences
 - Overdrive has price per circ model, pay from when someone needs a resources. Solves weeding problem.
- Sherry jones – international journal of open educational resources vol.1
 - https://www.ijoeer.org/a-solution-to-oer-publication-resistance-using-blockchain-technology-to-protect-scholar-copyright_doi-10-18278-ijoeer-1-1-8/#1540868308849-b76b110e-9bc0
 - Blockchain for tracking Open Education Resources – openly licensed materials
 - Currently there is no measure for tracking and enforcement
 - When people want to use content, they don't know they need copyright clearance
 - Having to contact the copyright holder is a large barrier to using copyrighted materials