

Blockchain for Librarians Working Group

November 25, 2019



Agenda

- SLA 2020 Conference
- Issues in Information Science
 - Additions from last month?
- How can blockchain / smart contracts help with these issues

Working Group Updates

- Add Working Group Profiles to SLA Toronto Website?
- Accepted to SLA 2020 Annual Conference

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
- DOI / ORCID

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- It is difficult to keep up with change
- An example of this is the shift from print to digital
- Many librarians come into the profession wanting to do a certain type of work (ex. reference) but have to adapt to different roles
- Collections are becoming increasingly digital
- UBC has over 660 licences to electronic content
- The future could bring AI to replace librarians for things like cataloguing, using automatic classification

- DRM creates an undesired barrier to accessibility
- DRM locks out the ability to use Screen Readers

- Controlled digital lending allows access to out of print books that are not available digitally

- Open Access comes at a cost – authors often must pay to make an article open access

- ORCID – centralized tracking of an academic's scholarly articles

- Is there any “Know Your Customer” process when registering. How do they know who you are?
- Blockchain could help play a role in authenticating identities and authorizing repositories
- Does not have a repository feature – no place to put the content

- The Library is now everywhere – but services do not have single sign on for all services
- Publishers are moving away from IP authentication
 - This is “too loose for publishers”
 - Patrons use VPN to appear that they are on campus when they’re not
 - Need to make IT dept. aware how the IP range impacts the library

- DOI – who has the authority to manage this identifier? Blockchain could help decentralize

- There is a rush to get scientific research out and upload pre-publication papers
 - This requirement for open data is new and some organizations are struggling with this
- Documentation review is in the wild west – peer review needs an authenticated process

American Libraries Magazine

- “There are credible examples of blockchain use for **interlibrary loan, scholarly publishing, credentialing**, and the development of a **universal library card**” – Susan Alman
- “In academic libraries, blockchain technology is directly applicable to the **peer-review process** and for **chain of custody for digital repositories**. In corporate, government, or other special libraries where security is paramount, blockchain is applicable in a wide variety of information-sharing scenarios within an organization, especially if that information is restricted or classified.” – Caroline Coward

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2019/03/01/library-blockchain-reaction/>

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- chain of custody for digital repositories = Record Provenance
- We need to remember that blockchain is a tool that can help solve a specific list of problems
- When discussing blockchain, we need to have a conversation about governance
- There is presently a lot of doubt around blockchain (since the crypto winter) – how do we leverage that doubt?

Other Applications...

- Application to cataloguing metadata creation/distribution
- Library as a DAO
- Creation of Token Economies