Community involvement in Dewey development: Possible models for collaboration

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BACKGROUND

How has the community been involved?

- Direct contact with the editorial team
- Consultation with outside experts
- Dewey/classification scholarship

Why now?

- On the community side, we know there's interest
- On our side:
  - Doing more with a smaller editorial team
  - Advancing larger changes outside a print cycle

POTENTIAL MODELS

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Traditional model

- Could be considered a control group
- Involves the editorial team taking the initiative
- Benefits
  - Close control over content
  - Direct communication
- Drawbacks
  - Time-intensive
  - Doesn't do much to expand "reach" of editorial team

Task forces of existing committees

- Collaborating with groups such as ALA's SAC, IFLA's SAAS… or EDUG!

- We've done it before and know there's interest

- Benefits
  - Many pairs of eyes for review
  - Helps bring in wider perspectives

- Drawbacks
  - Subject to timelines of other groups
  - Groups can be inefficient

External librarian/expert pairs

- Combining strengths of subject-matter experts and librarians with good Dewey knowledge
- Could also take the form of small groups—not necessarily pairs
- Benefits
  - Could save editor time compared to working with experts directly
  - Allows for broader contribution based on individual strengths
- Drawbacks
  - Less clear how participants should communicate
  - Little precedent to judge by

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Passive reception of suggestions

- Increasing use of existing platforms (e.g., Dewey blog, Twitter)
- New avenues, such as a suggestion form
- Benefits
  - Casts a wide net
  - Could serve people we don't usually hear from
- Drawbacks
  - Doesn't save editor time
  - May not actually provide much more feedback than we already get

Crowdsourcing

- User-contributed numbers
- Community review of changes
- Are there other ways to crowdsource?
- Who would be part of the "crowd"?

LOOKING FORWARD

What do we need to figure out to proceed?

- Which model(s) we want to use
- Who wants to participate
- Which areas we want to prioritize
- Pilot project(s): Biotechnology? Geosciences?
- How would *you* like to participate?