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## In-Person to Virtual in Six Weeks: Moving a Conference Online due to COVID-19

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**Scholarly Communication  
Assessment Forum**————

# **In-Person to Virtual in Six Weeks: Moving a Conference Online due to COVID-19**

Towson Conference for Academic Libraries  
July 28, 2021

# Presenters

- **Emily K. Chan**, Associate Dean for Research & Scholarship, San José State University, @ekchan35
- **Daina Dickman**, Scholarly Communication Librarian, California State University, Sacramento
- **Nicole Lawson**, Associate Dean for Academic Services, California State University, Sacramento

# About the Project

- In August 2019 California State University, Sacramento and San Jose State University were awarded an IMLS National Forum Grant to identify standards and best practices in evaluating scholarly communication programs at M1 Carnegie-classified public universities



This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (LG-35-19-0066-19).

# SCAF (Original Proposal)

- May 4-5, 2020
- In person in Sacramento, CA
- 25-30 scholarly communication and assessment experts
- 10 participants without a presenting role
- Extensive note-taking on presentations and breakout sessions to inform future white paper



## Pivot or Postpone?

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The first case of coronavirus in

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Sacramento County confirmed its first

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Professors given the choice to shift to

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Sac State canceled all in-person meetings,  
events

*March 11, 2020*

Sacramento State President Robert Nelsen said all scheduled campus events must be canceled, postponed, or moved to a virtual format.

# **The Remote Forum**

# Tools and Support

- Worked with IMLS to reallocate funds to:
  - incentivize participation;
  - extend timeline; and
  - hire technical support coordinator for the event
- Virtual conference platforms explored; Zoom selected as the preferred platform

# Building the Forum Experience

- Logistics:
  - Participants from various time zones
  - Scheduling transitions and breaks to reduce Zoom fatigue
  - Opportunities for engagement
- Setting expectations for participants
- Facilitating multiple breakout discussions for both days



# Building the Forum Experience

- Extensive documentation created
- Presentation pre-checks conducted by Technical Support Coordinator
- Platform facilitated the ability to record and transcribe all break-out sessions for later review/analysis
- Each breakout group used Google Docs

# **Lessons Learned & Next Steps**

# Lessons Learned

- Tech support - designate someone with expertise to serve solely in that role
- Consider participants' comfort
- Take advantage of the tools available in your conference platform
- Provide multimodal opportunities for sharing and engagement
- Recording discussions and extending the project timeline allowed us to collect a much richer data set than originally planned

## Next Steps

- Finish white paper and rubric
- Address peer reviewer comments
- Share with assessment expert
- Incorporate feedback, reshare, incorporate more feedback
- Disseminate in December
- Increase scope and include more institution types?
  - DPU, R2, etc.



# Scholarly Communication Assessment Forum

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## Learn More about Our Project

- [Scholarly Communication Assessment Forum | Sac State Library \(csus.edu\)](https://www.library.csus.edu/scholarly-communication-assessment-forum)
- View the full proposal:  
<https://www.imls.gov/sites/default/files/grants/lg-35-19-0066-19/proposals/lg-35-19-0066-19-full-proposal.pdf>
- December 2021 - White paper with accompanying rubrics will be distributed



# Scholarly Communication Assessment Forum

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## Thank You and Questions

- **Emily K. Chan**, Associate Dean for Research & Scholarship, San José State University, [emily.chan@sjsu.edu](mailto:emily.chan@sjsu.edu)
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