

CARLI Counts Update

Prepared for the September 18, 2020, Board of Directors Meeting

Since the cohort first met in person in February 2020, the pandemic has substantially changed many aspects about the project. Happily, participants adjusted very well to switching to virtual sessions. Lisa Hinchliffe, co-PI and content expert, has continued her extremely helpful one-on-one sessions with participants since February. Zoom webinars with Jill Naiman, UIUC iSchool; Sara Goek, IACRL’s Project Outcome; and Katherine Skinner, Educopia; have continued to bring wonderful continuing education topics to all participants.

Much has changed in the lives of all participants, including, sadly, some who have been laid off or furloughed from their jobs with CARLI member institutions. The CARLI Annual Meeting, an extremely popular in-person event scheduled for November 2020, will be held by Zoom instead. The seven team posters from Cohort Two, originally slated to be displayed, will instead be a virtual presentation during the Zoom Annual Meeting. Project staff will meet later this year to determine how best to reshape CARLI Counts Year Three in light of changes brought about by the pandemic.

In-person session two was transitioned to a series of Zoom meetings, July 13-15, 2020. Being sensitive to Zoom fatigue, the meetings were organized with lots of breaks and interaction, relying heavily on breakout rooms and members’ active participation. The seven teams had time for individual team meetings with Beck Tench, CARLI Counts Mentor Coach. These team meetings served to further engage and strengthen teams. Lisa Hinchliffe did a wonderful job of tying together content from in-person session one, and presentations from Gianina Baker (National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment) and Kate McDowell (storytelling thinking). The popular “Birds of a Feather” sessions, one by library type and one by topic, brought participants together to share experiences with participants on other teams. The Mentor Debrief sessions gave CARLI Counts staff reinforcement that the teams are very bonded, in spite of the uncertainty and disruption caused by the pandemic. The teams and their mentors have remained a vital component of the project, serving to provide support, guidance, and encouragement.

