

**Collaborating with Strangers Workshop for Books and Objects of Study
March 20, 2013**

A CoLAB was conducted on Books and Objects of Study. The CoLAB included presentations on collaboration, followed by one-on-one 3-minute speed-meetings before posting ideas and thoughts, and the creation of a book. Below is the evaluation of the March 20 CoLAB.

The participants in the CoLAB included 8 faculty members, 5 graduate students, 6 undergraduate students, and 5 “others” (1 additional participant did not specify her title). Of the 25 total participants, 6 were international participants.

Survey Questions (Q1-Q7)

(Question 1) Length of Collaborating with Strangers Workshop

When participants were asked to assess the length of the workshop, 88 percent of participants indicated that the length of the workshop was “Adequate”. 4 percent of participants indicated that the workshop was “Too Short”, 4 percent of participants indicated that the workshop was “Too Long”, and 4 percent of participants did not respond to the question. The results are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Too Long	Adequate	Too Short	No Response
1 (4.00%)	22 (88.00%)	1 (4.00%)	1 (4.00%)

(Question 2) Overall Evaluation of Workshop

When participants were asked to provide an overall evaluation of the workshop, 68 percent of participants gave the workshop an “Excellent” evaluation, 20 percent of participants gave the workshop a “Good” evaluation, and 4 percent of participants gave the workshop a “Fair” evaluation. No participants gave the workshop a “Poor” evaluation, and 8 percent of participants did not respond to the question. The results are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Response
17 (68.00%)*	5 (20.00%)	1 (4.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (8.00%)

*100 percent of undergraduate students, graduate students, and international participants gave the workshop an “Excellent” evaluation.

(Question 3) Would you attend a workshop like this again?

When participants were asked whether they would attend a workshop like this again, 88 percent of participants said “Yes”, 8 percent of participants said “No”, and 4 percent of participants did not respond to the question. The results are shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3

Yes	No	No Response
22 (88.00%)	2 (8.00%)	1 (4.00%)

(Question 4) Would you recommend this collaboration process to other students/faculty?

When participants were asked whether they would recommend the CoLAB process to other students and faculty, 80 percent of participants said “Yes”, 4 percent of participants said “No”, and 16 percent of participants did not respond to the question. The results are shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4

Yes	No	No Response
20 (80.00%)	1 (4.00%)	4 (16.00%)

(Question 5) CoLAB Workshop Results

Questions 5.1-5.2 are 5-point Likert scale questions in which participants are asked to evaluate personal outcomes related to the workshop. Options range from “Strongly Agree” to “Strongly Disagree”. The results of these questions are described below.

(Question 5.1) I feel more confident in my ability to approach people I don’t know.

When participants were given this statement, 40 percent of participants marked “Strongly Agree”, 40 percent of participants marked “Agree”, and 12 percent of participants marked “Neutral”. 4 percent of participants marked “Disagree”, no participants marked “Strongly Disagree”, and 4 percent of participants did not respond to the question. The results are shown in Table 5.1.

TABLE 5.1

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response
10 (40.00%)	10 (40.00%)	3 (12.00%)	1 (4.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (4.00%)

The average response among all participants who responded to the question was a 4.21 on the 5-point Likert scale. The average response among all international participants was a

4.83, and the average response among all domestic participants was a 4.00. The average response among all undergraduate students was a 4.33, the average response among all graduate students was a 4.60, and the average response among all faculty members was a 4.00. The average responses of these key demographic groups are displayed in Table 5.1(a).

TABLE 5.1(a)

<i>Demographic</i>	Overall	International	Graduate	Undergraduate	Domestic	Faculty
<i>Avg. Rating (out of 5)</i>	4.21	4.83	4.60	4.33	4.00	4.00

(Question 5.2) I am more comfortable with people in other disciplines.

When participants were given this statement, 24 percent of participants marked “Strongly Agree”, 48 percent of participants marked “Agree”, and 16 percent of participants marked “Neutral”. 4 percent of participants marked “Disagree”, no participants marked “Strongly Disagree”, and 8 percent of participants did not respond to the question. The results are shown in Table 5.2.

TABLE 5.2

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response
6 (24.00%)	12 (48.00%)	4 (16.00%)	1 (4.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (8.00%)

The average response among all participants who responded to the question was a 4.00 on the 5-point Likert scale. The average response among all undergraduate students was a 3.83, the average response among all graduate students was a 4.20, and the average response among all faculty members was a 3.83. The average response among all international participants was a 4.50, and the average response among all domestic participants was a 3.80. The average responses of these key demographic groups are displayed in Table 5.2(a).

TABLE 5.2(a)

<i>Demographic</i>	Overall	International	Graduate	Undergraduate	Faculty	Domestic
<i>Avg. Rating (out of 5)</i>	4.00	4.50	4.20	3.83	3.83	3.80

(Question 6) Did the CoLAB facilitation process help you access new resources, knowledge, and/or grantseeking information? If so, describe.

This question required participants to formulate an open-ended response. The complete list of specific responses is included in the Appendix. 76 percent of participants gave a positive response, 12 percent of participants gave a mixed response, 4 percent of participants gave a negative response, and 8 percent of participants did not answer the question. The results are shown in Table 6.

TABLE 6

Positive	Mixed	Negative	No Response
19 (76.00%)*	3 (12.00%)	1 (4.00%)	2 (8.00%)

*100 percent of graduate students and international participants gave a positive response to the question.

(Question 7) What was the most useful part of the workshop and why?

This question required participants to formulate an open-ended response. The complete list of specific responses is included in the Appendix. 76 percent of participants said that interacting with others was the most useful part of the workshop, 20 percent of participants offered a different response, and 4 percent of participants did not respond to the question. The results are shown in Table 7.

TABLE 7

Interaction	Other	No Response
19 (76.00%)*	5 (20.00%)	1 (4.00%)

*100 percent of faculty members who answered the question said that interacting with others was the most useful part of the workshop.

Appendix

(Question 6) Did the CoLAB facilitation process help you access new resources, knowledge, and/or grantseeking information? If so, describe.

Positive Responses

- Yes, I discovered that we have a rare books collection which I can access at a museum on the second floor of this library.
- I found a lot of people who were involved in digitization and education of language, which is something I'm interested in.
- It helped support STSC collaboration, which supports the larger environment for collaboration.
- Yes, I learned about the Pride Awareness Month activities at UF, which I'm eager to check out.
- Yes, I found a contact in the museum who can arrange a performance of SPICMACAY (Carnatic Student Organization) in Asian Festival Night celebrations.
- Yes, I learned about the collections.
- Yes, information on how to meet new people.
- It allowed me to talk with students and because of the topic, I feel like I was able to help and answer important questions.
- Yes, I met a number of people that would like to work on joint projects.
- It was interesting to find so many connections from various fields of study.
- Yes, they created space to engage with people of different interests, disciplines, skills and resources.
- Yes, I now know more about library collections and other resources on campus.
- Yes, I will contact several people to share resources and ask for their expertise.
- Yes, I like meeting people via various "vectors" of communication (writing, verbal, drawing) – perfect.
- Yes – possible summer work, possible knowledge source, possible friends.
- Yes, I met people from different disciplines that I would love to collaborate with.
- The most mind-expanding projects were about robotics and the economics of road construction.
- Yes, I am interested in media management and TU programming and I found a person who can introduce resources to me.

Mixed/Negative Responses

- Someone did suggest a grant possibility.
- I learned a bit more about the resources available at UF that are related to my career interests.
- In a way, yes. It allowed me to meet other people in my field of interest and learn what they do.
- No.

(Question 7) What was the most useful part of the workshop and why?

Interaction

- The talking with others bit, although the presentation at the beginning had some very interesting points.
- The interactions with others, though I did find it a bit shorter, maybe if more time could be dedicated this could be beneficial in upping access to knowledge and ideas.
- Colleagues from SASC holding facilitated/structured conversations on collaboration and research interests.
- Practicing networking and having informative conversations with people – I need to network for work, so this practice is very useful.
- Three minute speed meeting, as it allows for meeting people with varied interests and helps in learning new things.
- Practice communicating my interests in simple terms.
- Talking about what I do with people I don't know. I also enjoyed the ideas in the TED video
- I enjoyed meeting new people with similar passions.
- Speed meetings – wish we had more time for them!
- Talking with students. I felt useful. However, I wish there had been more time.
- Promoting the Special Collections Department.
- Getting to know so many people in a short time and getting to know about their research interests. The best part is you can follow up these people who you think you can collaborate with!
- New people and potential resources they offer.
- Hearing about other people's ideas, hobbies, and passions.
- Being quickly introduced to a number of potential working partners and team members. Great.
- Meeting people working on different projects.
- Interesting pool of people.

- Taking people outside their comfort zone.
- Communicating with different people.

Other Responses

- Learning about the resources available.
- The most useful part was the info sheet for each person. It helped identify common interests to jumpstart conversations.
- It's always nice to schmooze with people, but I can't say my interactions resulted in anything useful.
- The profile started engaging conversations and ensured that these varied widely. It was surprising to see people's interests and get to have very informal interactions.
- I loved the book-making session! It made me relive my childhood. I went back to my happy place!

(Idea Boards Question 1) What synergies or connections did you find?

- Lots of people know others that have interests I should know about – got lots of names to contact.
- STEM-SBE Collaboration opportunity!!
- The ties between an examination of cultural values in books and movies.
- Many of us are interested in library science, field/archiving
- I found a lot of people passionate about preserving and documenting the reading process in an increasingly digital world.
- Landscape cognition (relation to land); World of Insects (as a petition book)
- Using children's lit for ESL and international students
- Publishing
- Various strengths and resources and skills that people have
- People who love the physical aspects of books like me
- Small world: shared locations and connections
- Grant suggestion
- Interests in cultural story telling
- Contact at Museum for a music performance
- Others whose interests mirror mine
- Connections with etymology – Collection management
- Pride awareness month activities at UF this week

- Many not aware of special collections
- Great interest in special collections
- Mass communication
- Theater
- Passion for doing what we like
- There were lots of people interested in digitizing and using it for further implementing education
- Connection with Media library
- Communication excellent

(Idea Boards Question 2) What are your next steps?

- To arrange meetings to sit down and brainstorm events that can coordinate with collection and talk about connecting to classes
- I am going to email a few people that I have found as possible collaborators
- Contact some of the folks I met here, send email with info they found interesting
- Check Website
- Send out emails for collaboration
- Contact through email and discuss possibilities
- Possibly get help from people on direction in cultural studies ethnographies
- Having longer chats about topics of interest
- RECALL – What was my original question/project?
- Visit the second floor of Library East
- Friend some people on Facebook
- Many will visit on Contact Special Collections
- I plan on keeping in contact with these individuals and continuing our dialogue from today
- To see collections in Media Library
- Check out book collections
- Email dialogue
- Check out pride awareness month activities online and in reality
- Follow up; I would love to get more information on Education and Languages.

(Idea Boards Question 3) What did you learn?

- That talking to people really is the best way to experience new ideas and creativity
- Opened my eyes to a world of opportunity!
- Not everyone clicks, but the spark of finding a connection is a feeling that makes you smile
- Richard Branson book to read
- You can (almost) always find something common with another person
- How we all interconnect on campus
- What a curator does
- 3 minutes is not enough time
- Learned that UF has a teaching coll of insects
- Learned about African studies collection
- People have interesting hobbies! Beekeeping, Sugar and Cheese; I need to meet more people
- I learned that High Tea had to do with table height
- The great variety of interests
- People are willing to work with me, so I am too
- Learned about robotics
- Social Enterprise
- I learned that there are several brilliant minds at this university interested and experienced in my fields of interest – and that's pretty darn awesome!
- I learned that we all have our own interesting quirks that fit our interests