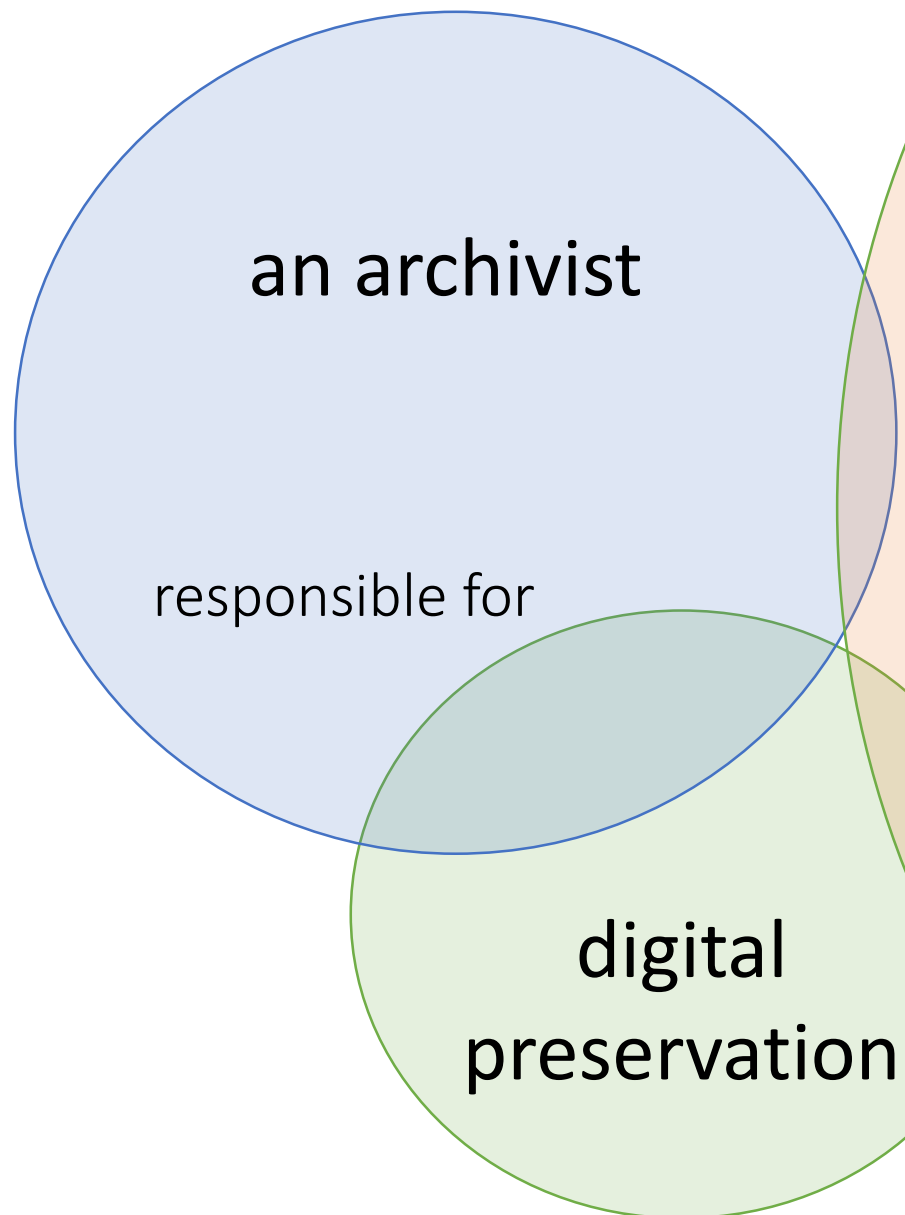


*Collaborating Across Communities:
Leveraging Our Strengths for
Sustainable Programs and Services*

Nancy Y McGovern
Director, Digital Preservation, MIT Libraries
IDCC 2018

I am ...



in a
library

Community

Community in this context: “a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals” source: <http://bit.ly/2tbthPR>

Community affiliations depend on context - examples of my communities:

- archival community
- digital preservation community
- digital practice community
- LGBTQIA community
- dog owners
- ...

Digital Practice

to continually work
to bring content and lessons from the past
for the benefit of the present
on behalf of the future

Collaborate

to work jointly on an activity or project [OED]

to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor

to cooperate with an agency ... with which one is not immediately connected

Latin: to work together

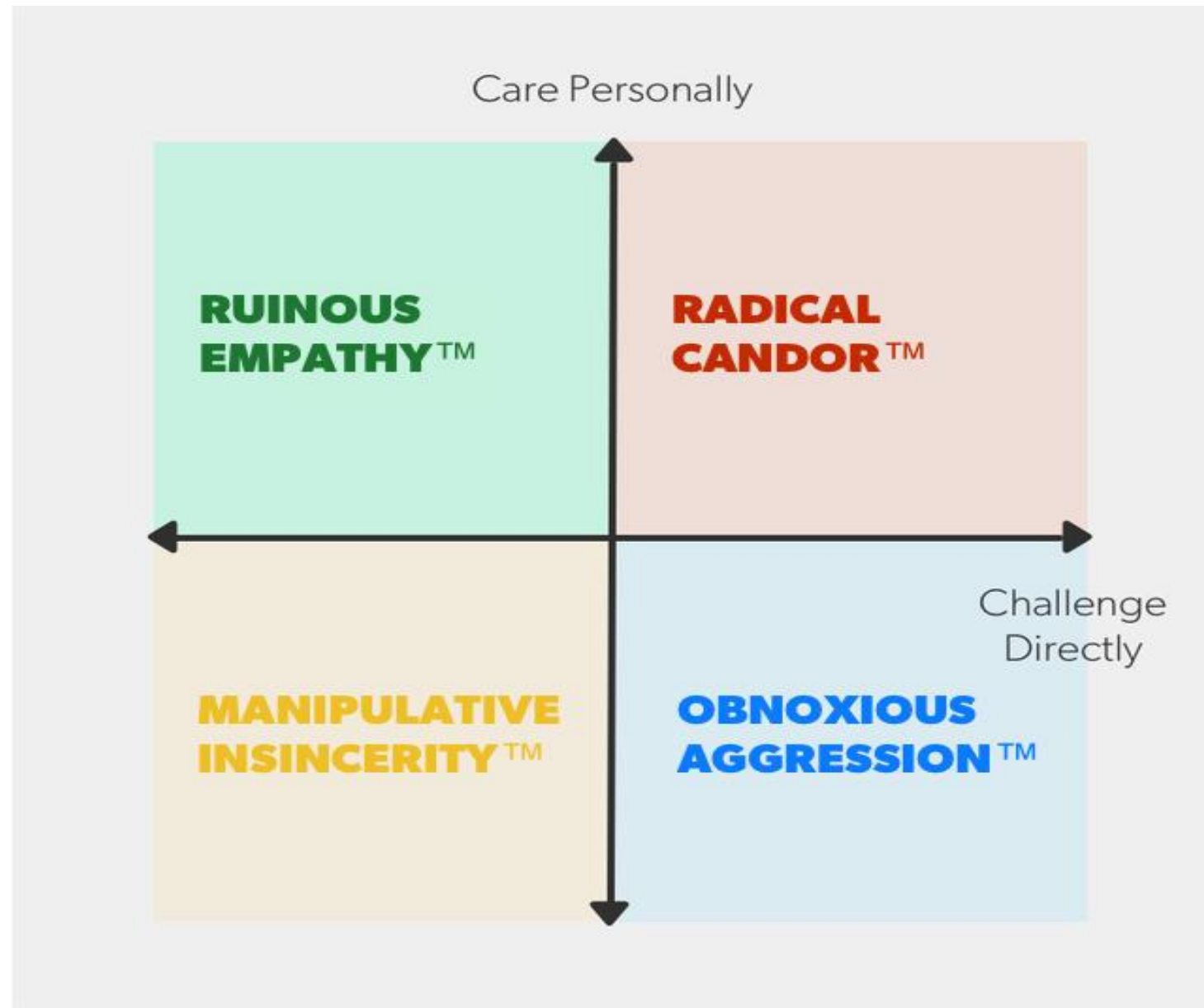
In this context: rely on others to do agreed upon things for or in concert with you
and to do agreed upon things for or in concert with others


Rather than letting people know what you did, actively engage and inform

More than asking for feedback or help with your idea/project, include in the framing

Adapt Radical Candor ...

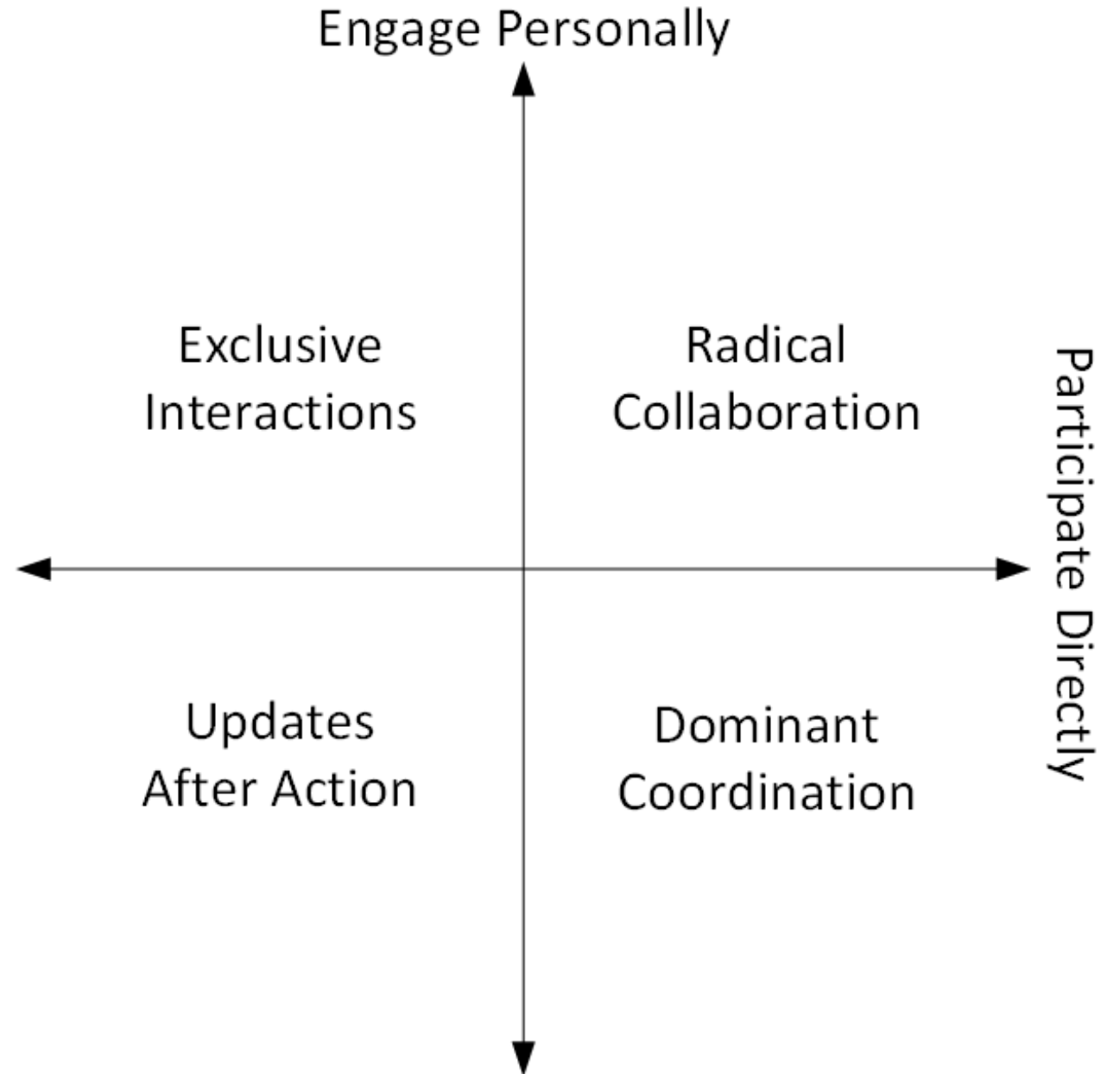
An approach for encouraging constructive feedback



Courtesy of 

Explanatory video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yj9GLENCgm4>

To Radical Collaboration



Inclusive Inclusion

Social and demographic inclusion

i.e., not excluded based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, or on any other characteristic or preference

Showstopper: first and foremost ensure that people are safe

Professional inclusion

People from all impacted or related professions and domains are included openly and equitably

Technical inclusion

Technical is not limited to technological

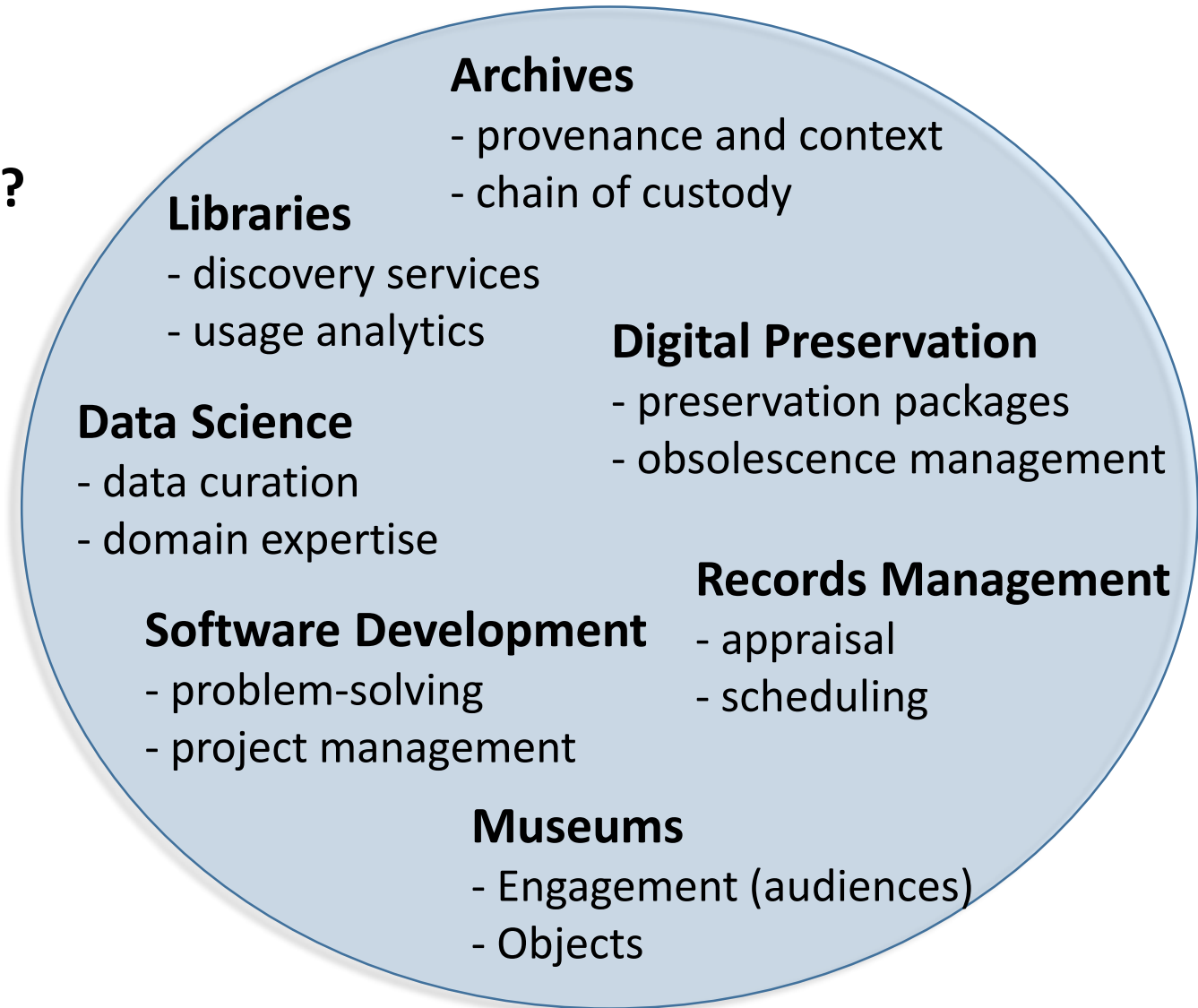
Technology (skills, tools, capabilities) should be available to all

Digital Practice + Collaboration

Who would you bring to the table?

- examples of domain strengths
- round table (with no head)
- stronger together
- professional inclusion
- common interests
- overlapping members
- overlapping objectives

Who's not at the table and why?

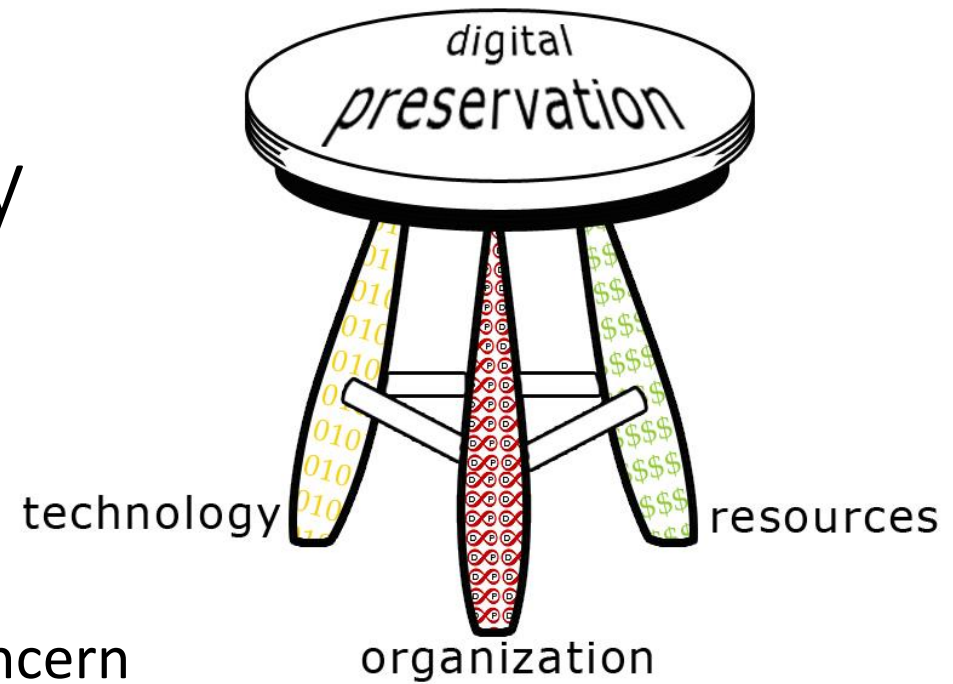


Digital Practice + Diversity and Inclusion

- Individuals and institutions engaged in digital practice are not diverse
- Some efforts to expand opportunities for experience and training
- Consider archival practice vs institutional policies
- Common acquisition models don't meet needs of communities
- Collection policies for repositories
- Technical Inclusion (conference example)
- Different professions have different issues
- Engage in discussion...



Building (an Inclusive) Community



Common stages of organizational maturity model:

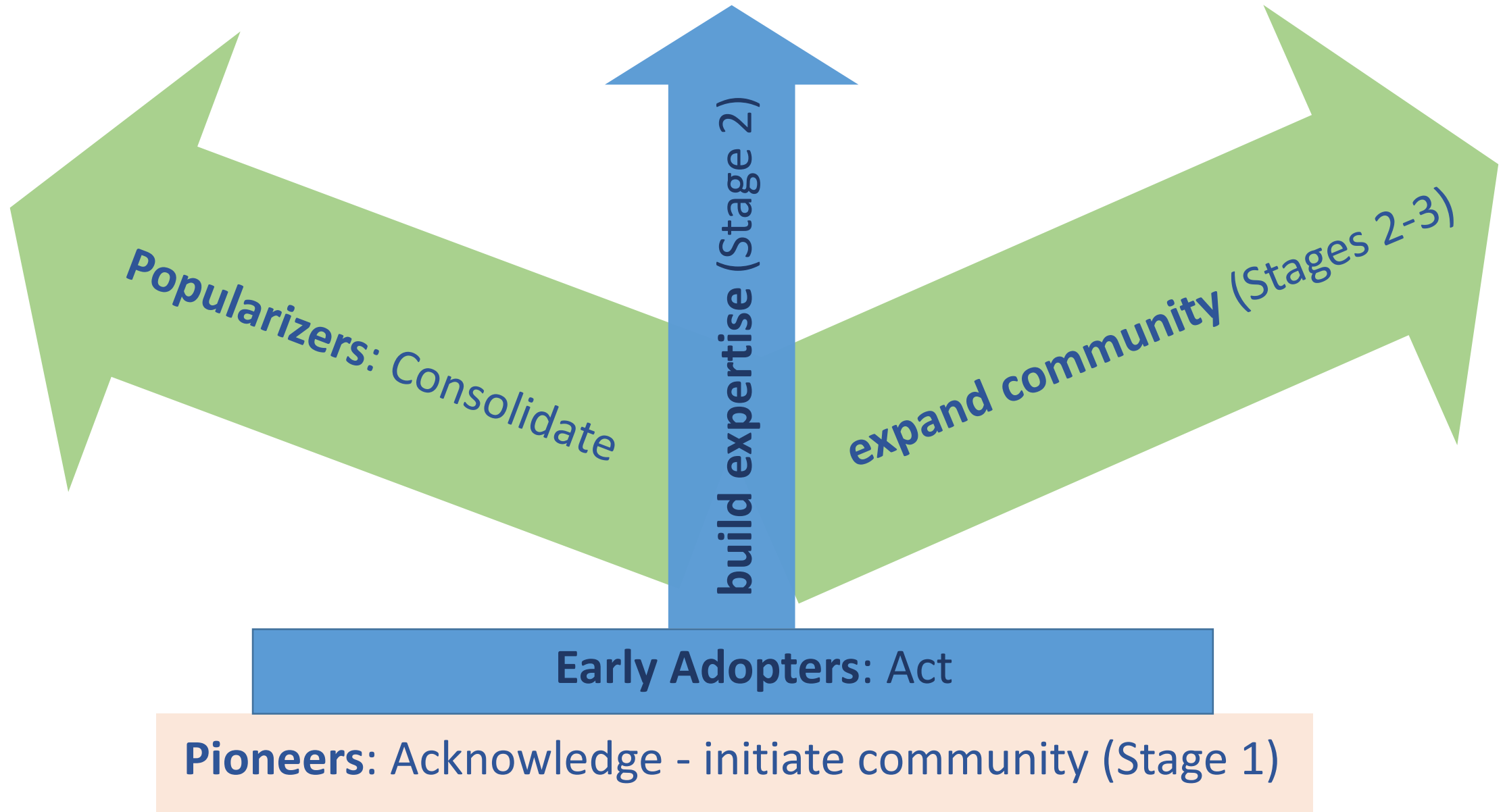
1. **Acknowledge:** understanding that this is a local concern
2. **Act:** initiating projects
3. **Consolidate:** segueing from projects to programs
4. **Institutionalize:** incorporating larger environment; rationalizing programs
5. **Externalize:** embracing inter-institutional collaboration and dependency

Kenney and McGovern, 2003

Organizations reach these stages through community building

- set objectives, engage community members, build towards critical mass

Act (Stage 2) to Consolidate (Stage 3) Transition



Archives in context – words are important ...

To an archivist:

Archives are an **organization** that collects the records of individuals or organizations; the professional **discipline** of administering such archival collections and organizations; the **building** (or portion thereof) housing archival collections.

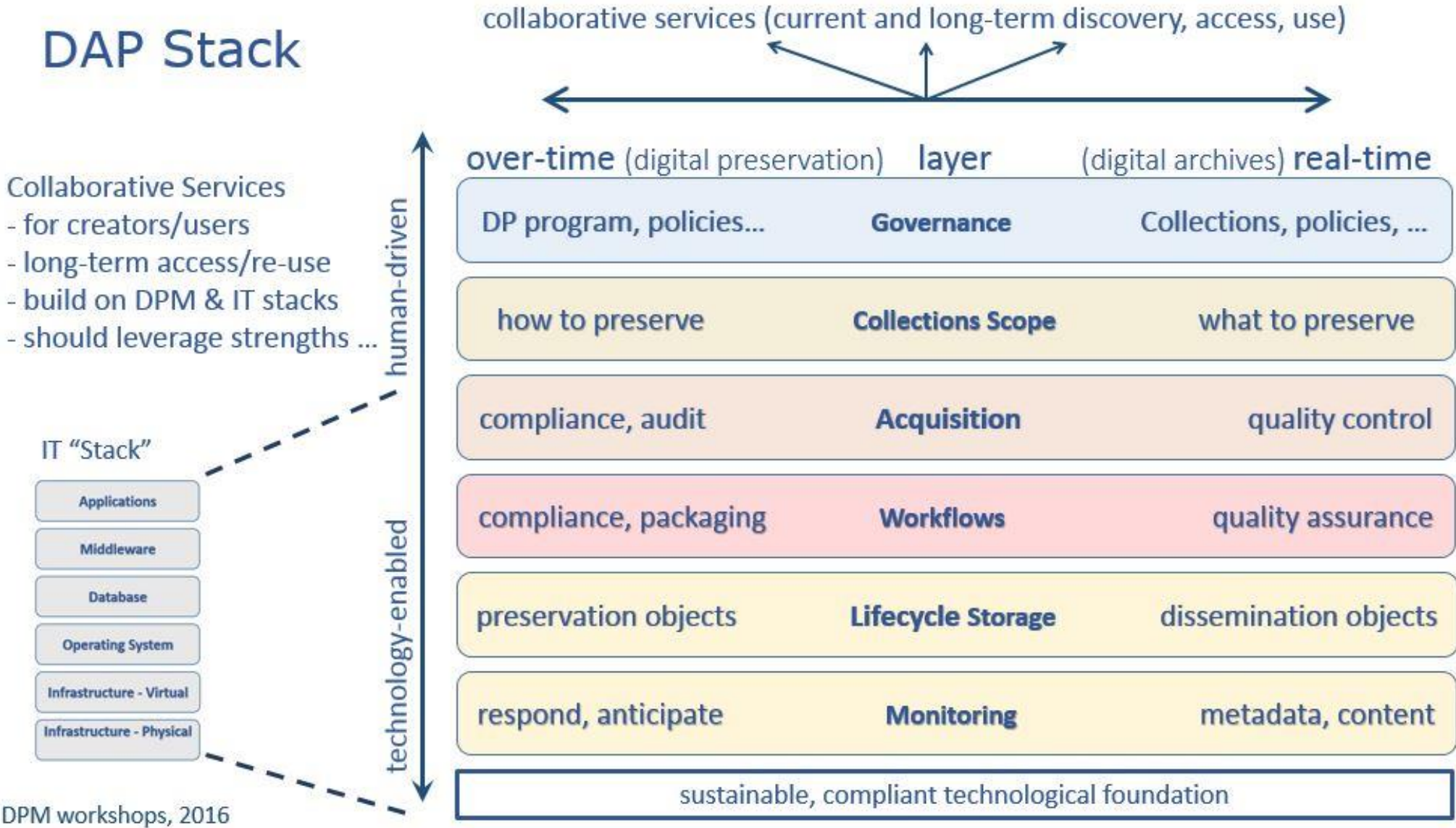
The archival community refers to archivists anywhere who have training and expertise in **archival principles and practice** (e.g., SAA [Code of Conduct and Ethics](#))

IT use of “archives” and “archiving”: often refers to **aggregations** of content, storage of content – is typically not archival from an archivist’s perspective and does not equate to preservation (a more robust and collaborative concept)

e.g., Twitter archives

Non-archivists use of “digital archivist” may refer to work by anyone on digitized or other digital content of any kind

Disambiguating digital archives and digital preservation



Preservation and Access

Preservation – actions, agents, and infrastructure to ensure ongoing access to content

Access – means of enabling discovery, delivery, and use of content

90% + of the world focuses on access – and that's okay if preservation is supported

Renewed interest in post-custodial and recent (mis)understandings of preservation

Pre-custodial period: between creation (actual or expected) and long-term custody

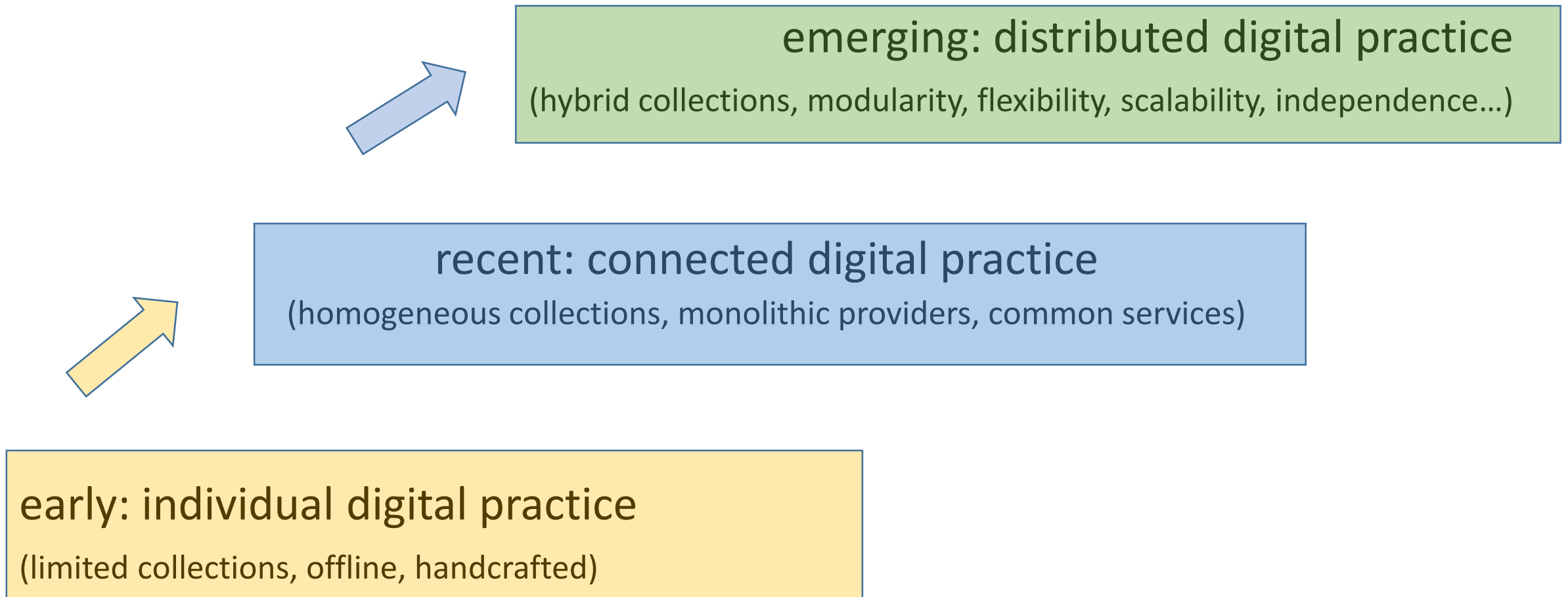
Preservation view: opportunity to determine retention and build relationships

Access view: perception that preservation is absent or not working

Perceived immediate access (or lack) is not an indicator or measure of preservation

Generations of Practice...

...follow generations of technology – a distributed world leads to distributed practice



Emerging Distributed Digital Practice

to continually work

to bring content and lessons from the past

for the benefit of the present

on behalf of the future

...

achieved through radical collaboration

across all domains

that are interested, engaged, reliant upon, or willing to help

to continually devise, implement, and improve

solutions in response to ongoing technological change

Examples: OO-IO model, DP storage

what will a distributed practice look like for ... archives? storage?

Considerations for collaborating across communities

- **Raise awareness through open discussion – listen and assume good intent**
balance advocacy and inquiry; use inclusive terms (e.g., digital practice) and adjust ...
- **Remember that digital archives may refer to aggregations of archival records**
or to any digital content an individual or institution may be managing, whether preserving or not ...
- **Be aware that people often conflate digital archives and digital preservation**
these are distinct and co-dependent domains
- **Revisit institutional policies and practices**
need review, revision, re-engineering, re-thinking to encourage not hinder collaboration and inclusion
- **Be aware of using our own lens and our cumulative progress in viewing our past**
like saying: “those dratted people in the 90’s refused to use social media!” ???
- **Balance advocacy and inquiry**
determine when to make your case, when to listen and learn
- **Continue from now – facing forward (informed by lessons learned)**
look for opportunities – especially the unexpected ...



See you in Boston!



Save the date: 24-27 September 2018

<https://ipres2018.org/>

"It is harder to crack a prejudice
than an atom"

Albert Einstein

Thank you!

Questions?

@mcgovern60