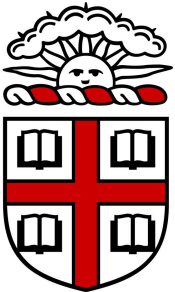


# Collaboration Driven Development

(How we develop the Discovery tool  
at the Brown University Library)



BROWN

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What do *you* expect to  
get out of this session?

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# Agenda

- Project Timeline
- Discovery Demo
- Context
- Structures
- Building trust

Feel free to ask questions as we go

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# Project timeline

- Original Discovery committee formed: 2011
  - Current iteration formed: 2014
  - Project started in 2014 (first commit May/2014)
  - Jeanette involved since 2014
  - Hector involved since 2016
-

# Discovery Tool Demo

Josiah: <https://search.library.brown.edu/>

High level [architecture diagram](#)

# Context for Library Discovery

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# What does discovery represent?

- The public face of many departments' work
  - The way we communicate with patrons
  - Shifts in the tradition of library catalogs and the expertise of librarians
  - A core function and service of a university library
-



Raise your hand if...

this project sounds similar to something  
at your institution

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# Challenges

- Resistance to change from some users
  - Living with two systems
    - Classic vs (new) Josiah
  - Developers need to learn the library domain
    - MARC, ILS integration, Journal subscriptions, ...
  - Perennial
    - Staff changes
    - Not enough people/time
    - All of us are "part time" on this project
    - Unscheduled work
-

Think about the project you just shared...

How many of these challenges are similar to those your teams face?

What are other challenges your team faces?

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Established structures



# Discovery Committee

The role of the committee:

- Representation from multiple units (circulation, special collections, metadata, instruction, development)
- Build trust across the library
- Share the work and responsibility
- Develop and run UX studies

Organization:

- The chair rotates every now and then
- Individual members rotate every now and then
- The chair is not a developer

Who owns what?

- The ***what to build*** and ***when to build it*** is decided by the ***committee***
  - The ***how to build it*** is decided by the ***developers***
-

# Project Management

## Agile project planning

- 3-week Sprints
- What will be developed this Sprint - ideally domain-experts driven (in collaboration with developers)
- At the end of Sprint demo the resulting features
- Repeat

This is the ideal,  
we deviate from  
it (quite) often

## Managing project priorities

- Missing features in new Josiah
- Ongoing bug fixes, minor tweaks
- Committee's involvement for medium to large initiatives
- Trello for keeping a running list (sort of outdated by now)
- Keep the list short.
- Have a mix of small/medium/large features.

# Commitment from the library administration

- The library is fully behind this project
- People's time is allocated for the project
  - (even though nobody is 100% allocated)



**Back to your project:**

What structures do you have set up?

How do you gain buy in?

What do the structures fail to accomplish?

What administrative support is provided?





Trust as a requirement for success

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# Communication (lots of it)

- Open channels of communication
  - Quick response to email questions/comments/requests
    - (even if it is to say, no can do)
  - Constant outreach
  - Frequent "office hours" sessions
  - Frequent demos
  - Involving constituencies at initial stages of development
  - Teaching and learning from each other
-

# Collaboration

Constant and ongoing **collaboration** between domain experts and developers

- At least one domain expert with enough IT/dev/data knowledge
- At least one developer that can work with non-IT people
- Present a unified view of the project and priorities

Frequent **delivery** of new features and bug fixes

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# Respecting each other

- Librarians (mostly women) / IT (mostly men)
  - Our different areas of expertise
  - The challenges each of us face in our work
  - What the project represents to each of us
  - Being aware that we must respect each other (watch out for biases and microaggressions)
-

# Support through external collaboration

- Sharing information over time
    - Ivy Plus Libraries Discovery Day
  - In-depth conversations with other institutions
    - Meeting with MIT
-


# Your project, one last time

- What strategies that we mentioned would work at your institution?
  - What support might your team need?
-

# Thank you for your time...

...please remember to submit your evaluation of this session (via the online agenda or the app)

	Monday (0)	Tuesday (7)	Wednesday (4)
<b>JUMP TO:</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>		
8:30 AM			
11:30 AM			
2:00 PM			
2:45 PM			
4:15 PM			
	<b>Collaborative Development: The Discovery Tool at Brown University Library</b>		
	Presenters: <b>Hector Correa, Jeanette Norris</b>		
	Delivery Format: Interactive Presentation		
	8:30 AM - 9:15 AM		
	ROOM 551		
	BREAKOUT SESSION		
	LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT		



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