Radically Regional: GLAM partnerships through the BC Regional Digitized History example

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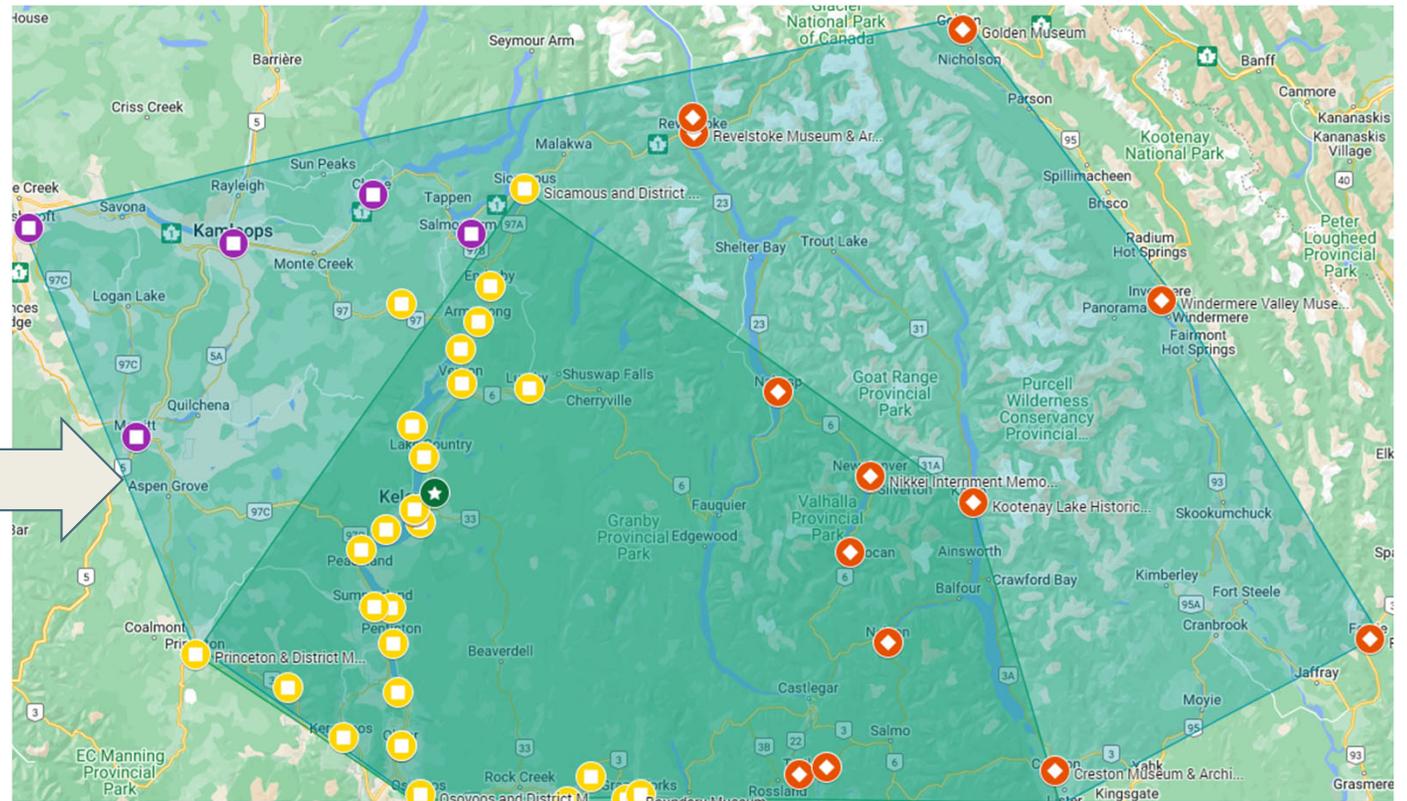# Background & Basis

Formative questions

- What are community challenges?

- Which library functions respond to these challenges?

- Which library functions also respond to library (Special Collections) mission and strategy?

- What does a product of mutual benefit look like?

- Does the product reciprocally shape the library (Special Collections)?

References: UBC, (2021 -- slide 2) Berringer, H., (2020 -- slide 3); Berringer, H., (2022 -- this slide).

Map

BC Context

Yellow = DOH
Red = KCDH
Purple: TNDH
Dark green = 2020
Light green = 2022

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DOH: Armstrong Spallumcheen Museum & Art Gallery • Boundary Historical Society (Grand Forks) • Boundary Museum & Archives • Enderby & District Museum & Archives • Falkland Historical Society • Fintry Estate (Kelowna) • Greater Vernon Museum & Archives • Greenwood Museum & Visitors Centre • Hedley Heritage Museum • Historic O'Keefe Ranch (Vernon) • Kelowna & District Genealogical Society • Kelowna Public Archives • Kettle River Museum (Midway) • Lake Country Museum & Archives • Lumby & District Museum • Naramata Heritage Museum • Okanagan Falls Heritage Museum & Bassett House • Okanagan Historical Society • Oliver & District Heritage Society • Osoyoos Museum Archives • Peachland Museum • Penticton Museum & Archives • Princeton Museum & Archives • Roman Catholic Diocese of Nelson Archives • Sicamous & District Museum & Archives • South Similkameen Museum (Keremeos) • Summerland Museum & Archives • UBC Okanagan Library Special Collections • Westbank Museum **KCDH:** • Arrow Lakes Historical Society (Naksup) • B.C. Interior Forestry Museum (Revelstoke) • Creston Museum • Fernie Museum • Kootenay Lake Historical Society (Kaslo) • Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (New Denver) • Revelstoke Museum & Archives • Silvery Slocan Valley Historical Society (New Denver) • Slocan Valley Historical Society • Touchstones Museum of Art & History (Nelson) • Trail Museum & Archives • Windermere Valley Museum (Invermere) **TNDH** • Ashcroft Museum • Chase & District Museum & Archives • Kamloops Museum • Nicola Valley Museum & Archives (Merritt) • Salmon Arm Museum & Archives

But why?

Defining ourselves

MISSION & VISION
- Increase the **collective capacities** of museums and archives in BC's southern interior
- Enhance **access to archives and other primary sources**
- Construct and support a **network** of heritage organizations

VALUES
- **Include:** many partners may have only developing archival knowledge but carry unique, irreplaceable knowledge of their community histories
- **Reduce barriers, pursue economy-at-scale:** many partners are under-resourced
- Contribute: to a durable **cultivation of the archival record**

Spaces and Collections

Campus and Community

UBC OKANAGAN
STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

10

References: UBC Okanagan Library. (2022)

Operating Principles

- The Library can deliver value to communities through the sharing of its expertise and infrastructure

- The definition of 'library collection' can be flexed in innovative ways, and this flexibility strengthens its ability fulfil the Library's mission

- Digital practice is difficult, and collaboration eases the difficulty.
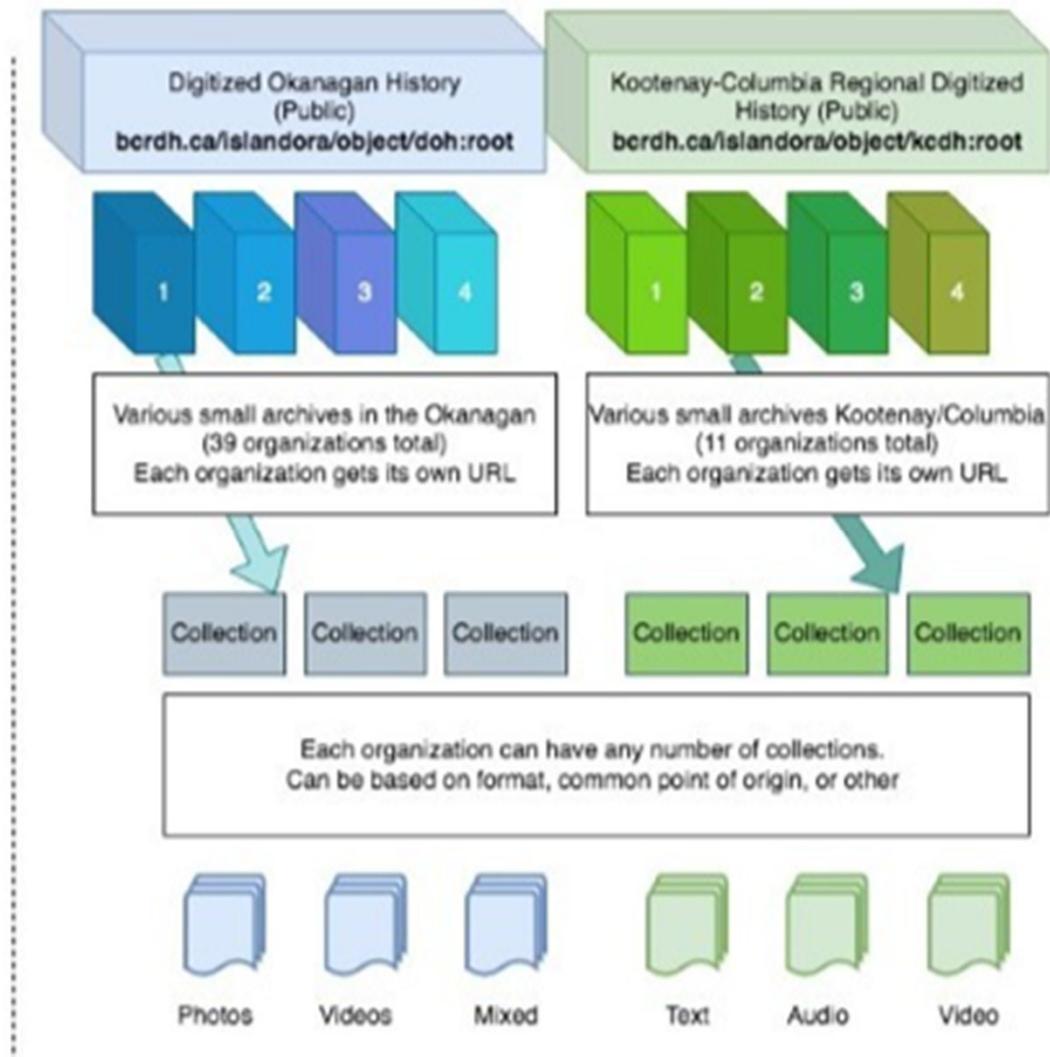
References: UBC Okanagan Library. (2019).

Components

Summary of components

- Shape: Application of archival concepts and structures to representations of digitized and digital content in the online environment

- Direction: Association and alignment with established collecting mandates

- Methods: Development of customized procedures and roles to emphasize conservation of limited resources

- Rules: Determination of technical standards as means rather than ends.

Shape

All cross-searchable
Clearly attributed to
- Containing collection
- Custodial org.

References: ACRL, (2018); Conway, P,. (2000); Dancy, R., (2012).;Gilliland, A.J. (2016); Zhang, J. and Mauney, D. (2013 Spring/Summer).; Force, D. and Smith, R. (2021).
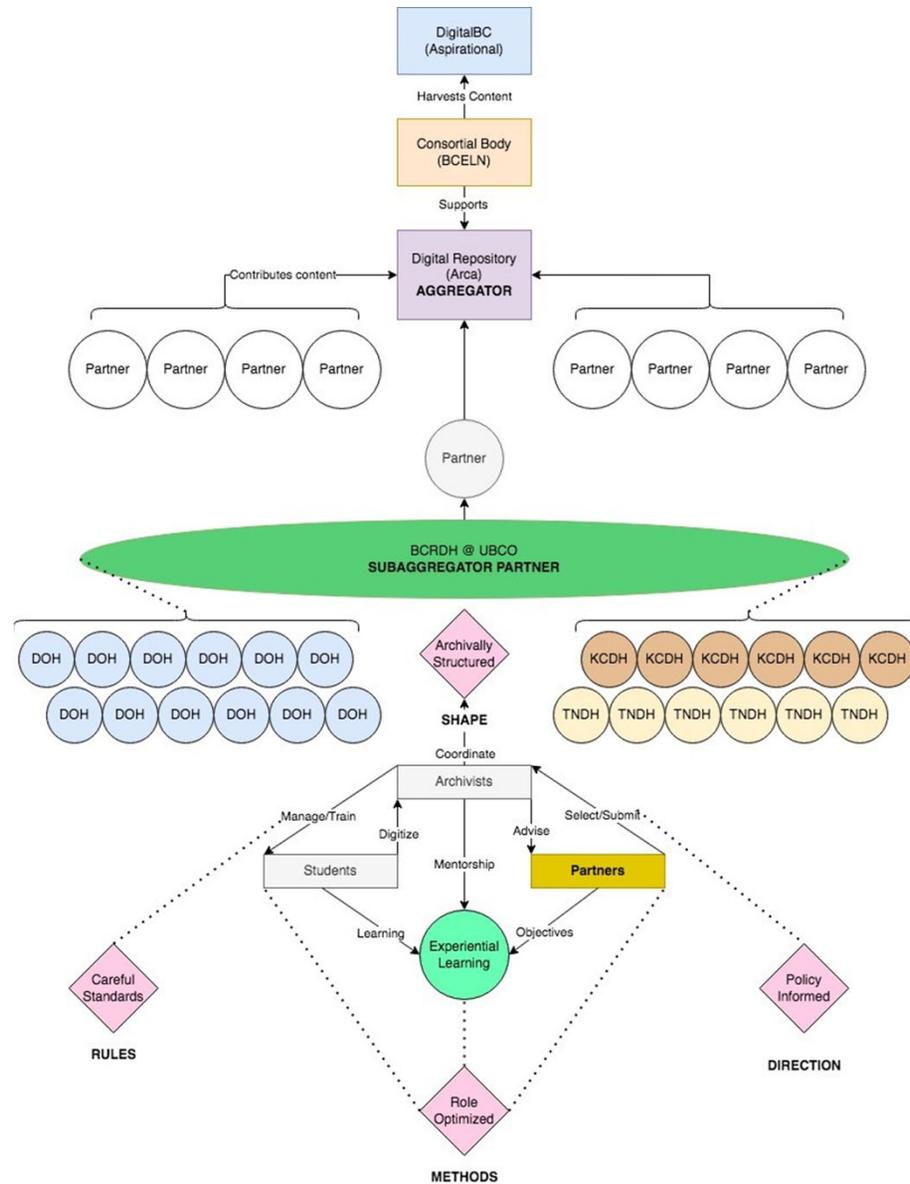
Direction

- Tied to a supported collection development policy
  - Geographical / regional
- Are we lucky or is this obvious?
  - Finding common ground with potential partners has been relatively easy
- Thinking flexibly about ownership
  - Our grasp can exceed our reach, to positive effect
  - Compatible with the Principles of OCAP
- Implications in determining the limits of stewardship
  - Digital preservation

References: UBC Okanagan Library. (2019); First Nations Information Governance Council. (2022).

Methods - Membership has its rewards

- Partnership with Arca, BCELN's digital repository shared service

- "We'll Get There Together" (2019): extension of hub-and-spoke model, new level for BCRDH as a regional "sub-aggregator"

- Similarities, and differences, with other sub-aggregators:
  - BC History Digitization Program
  - UBC School of Information

References:Nishimura, S., Hohmann, P. & Rampfl, H. (2019); BC Electronic LIbrary Network. (2022); BC History Digitization Program. ([2022]); UBC School of Information. ([2022]); UBC School of Information. (n.d.)

Methods:
Sub-aggregator role

Methods: Outreach

- "Functional" Community Engagement Framework

- Responsive Partnership Statements

- Experiential learning relationships
  - Co-op (UBC, UofT, UWO)
  - Professional Experience (UBC)

References: Xie, I., & Matusiak, K. K. (2016); BC Regional Digitized History. (2022)

Rules

- Defining *Quality, Quality Controls, and Quality Assurance*
- Role for BCRDH as data cleaner, data enhancer
- Identifying and leveraging available technological affordances
- Linking digital preservation to a more holistic picture

References: Bureau of Canadian Archivists. (2008); Hives, C. & Taylor, B. (1993); Library of Congress. (2018); University of British Columbia. (2020).

Counterpoints

Other examples

- **University of Connecticut -- Connecticut Digital Archive**
  https://ctdigitalarchive.org/

- **University of North Carolina, Wilson Special Collections Library --
  Digital North Carolina**
  https://www.digitalnc.org/

References: Connecticut Digital Archive. (2022 June 22); Digital North Carolina. (2022.)

Conclusion & Discussion

Lessons

- Shape
  - Examine the interplay between archival digital object surrogates and descriptions at the aggregate level versus opportunities for reflection in a DAMS platform
  - Examine the role, value, and limits of digitization sampling for access where comprehensive digitization is infeasible
- Direction
  - Examine the strengths of existing mandates and explore where these can be updated to better steward digital and/or non-owned resources
- Methods
  - Examine this question: what is the work to be done, and who will do the work?
- Rules
  - Quality is participant in a larger value equation.

References: Association of Canadian Archivists. (2017); Hives, C. & Hohmann, P. (2019).

Risks

- Consortial membership & migration to Islandora 2
- Changes in resource modelling
- Narrow focus -- emphasis on build rather than use
- Narrow representation -- portal content poses its own problems
- Partnership dynamic -- is their failsafe our risk?
- Loss of control of assets
- Gaps in documentation and strategy
- Volunteerism, tacit regional historical knowledge is waning and the opportunities for capturing description are decreasing

Next Steps and Transitions

- Close out open projects
- Islandora 2 migration with Arca
- Characterize opportunities for ongoing resourcing
- Enhance digital preservation program documentation
- Focus on outreach and communications, emphasize teaching & research
- Reassess needs and consider new areas of potential

Final comments

- Whole greater than the sum of the parts

- We all benefit

- Traffic is now increasing at a rate greater than actual growth. Is this meaningful?

- Innovative? Possibly, but there are good exemplars too.

Views / year v. Cumulative Objects
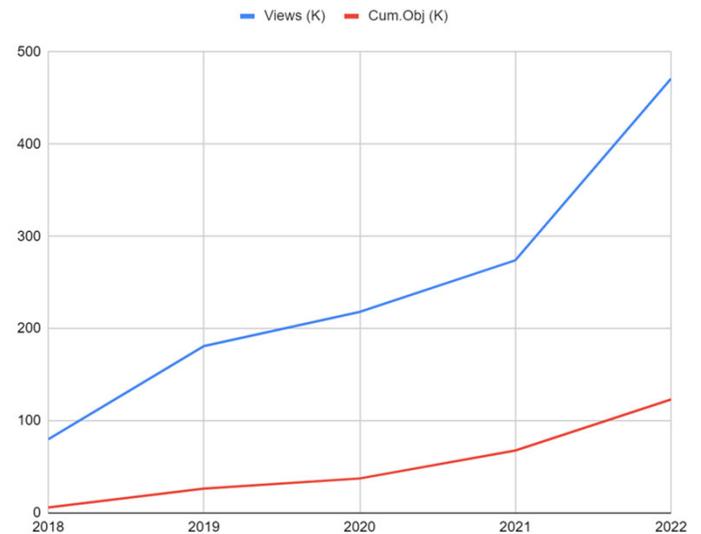
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Slide 23 background image: Hohmann, P. (2022). "Raymer Avenue sunset, Kelowna B.C."

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