

The MLA InSight Initiative The 2020 Summits

Based on response to an online survey of the librarians who participated in Summits 3 and 4 issued a few days before the start of Summit 4 and input from all representatives of Participating Organizations at the conclusion of Summit 4, the vast majority of the attendees agreed to the following organizing elements guiding the MLA InSight Initiative in general and the Summits in 2020 in particular.

- The premise of the MLA InSight Initiative is to build goodwill and collaboration between the health sciences librarian and health information provider communities on projects that have meaning and value for both communities.
- The first four Summits (the MLA-proclaimed “pilot period”) have established this safe, trusting environment and models for collaboration.
- The librarians and representatives of Participating Organizations that attend the Summits are interested in focusing on collaborative initiatives that build bridges between the two communities.
- All participants, particularly those from Participating Organizations, are interested in producing tangible intellectual property with lasting value to their enterprises.
- All participants agree that face-to-face meetings are essential and the most efficient way to achieve the desired collaborative outcomes.
- While there is no good time to schedule these Summits, late in the year is particularly challenging for representatives in the Participating Organizations. (Ideal timing is probably the timing of the 2018 Summits – March and September.)
- The current model adopted for the two Summits in 2019 consisted of the following elements:
 - The first Summit, “Bridge building: what bridges to build and how,” featured panelists from the library, publisher and end user communities who were prompted to address a few critical areas where bridges needed to be built.
 - At the end of that first Summit, attendees agreed on a single bridge building theme (“Understanding end user behavior”) with a handful of expressed outcomes / deliverables that would result from collaboration taking place between the end of that Summit in June and the end of the year.
 - The group that attended this first Summit agreed to attend the second Summit (held in November) during which these same individuals would work on the specific outcomes they identified.

- The desired outcomes were assigned to four small groups, which began to meet virtually in September to develop a plan to achieve the outcome(s) their small group was assigned.
- In thinking about 2020, the Nov 2019 Summit attendees unanimously agreed to the following:
 - The first Summit would invite all attendees of the 2019 Summits back to Chicago in the spring to finish the work on the identified outcomes / deliverables.
 - The second Summit of 2020 would mimic the structure of the first Summit of 2019, in which outside speakers / panelists would address aspects of a chosen theme, and from that outside “stimulation,” attendees would determine the next “bridgebuilding” theme.
 - The next Summit – the first Summit held in calendar year 2021 - would involve the same people who attended the fall 2020 Summit.
- The group further agreed – but not necessarily unanimously – that it would be very helpful to have the new theme for these two Summits (trust, for example) chosen and communicated as early as possible, so Participating Organizations can determine who from their staff should attend and the MLA Steering Committee can take that into account when soliciting applications and selecting applicants.
- As part of the application process for librarians to participate in the new InSight Initiative in 2020 (which will begin with the second Summit of 2020), MLA must inform all applicants that successful applicants must commit to attending the second Summit held in 2020 and the first Summit held in 2021, reading articles chosen for pre-Summit reading, and working with a small group in a series of virtual meetings before the first Summit of 2021 on one or two desired outcomes.
- Finally, there was agreement that the desired outcomes Summit 3 attendees identified at the end of Summit 3 were generally too ambitious and broad.