



Developing Social Interoperability to Advance Open Science: A Joint Effort by LIBER and OCLC

2021 LIBER Annual Conference * 24 June 2021

Rebecca Bryant, PhD

Senior Program Officer, OCLC Research

bryantr@oclc.org

@RebeccaBryant18

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2753-3881>

Astrid Verheusen

Executive Director, LIBER

astrid.Verheusen@libereurope.org

@AstridVerheusen





***We acknowledge and celebrate the
Indigenous people on whose
traditional land and airways we
meet, and pay our respect to the
elders past and present***

*If you are unsure whose land you are currently residing upon, we encourage
you to visit native-land.ca*

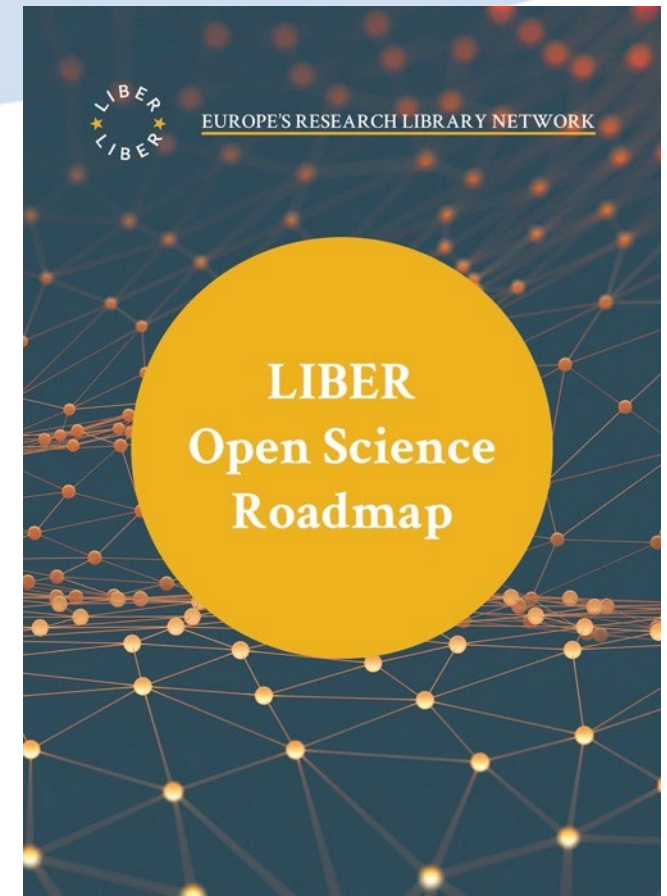
2020: Open Science Discussion Series 2020



Open Science Roadmap

Focus Areas

1. Scholarly Publishing
2. FAIR Data
3. Research Infrastructures & the EOSC
4. Metrics & Rewards
5. Open Science Skills
6. Research Integrity
7. Citizen Science



2020: Open Science Discussion Series 2020



Objectives and desired Outcomes

- Offer our Networks a **Forum for Meaningful Discussion**
- Offer an opportunity to **Exchange Ideas across the Atlantic**, with audiences from both Europe and North America
- **Identify Key Research Questions** that LIBER in cooperation with OCLC can address to advance the role of Research Libraries in an emerging Open Science Landscape



2020: Open Science Discussion Series 2020



Results

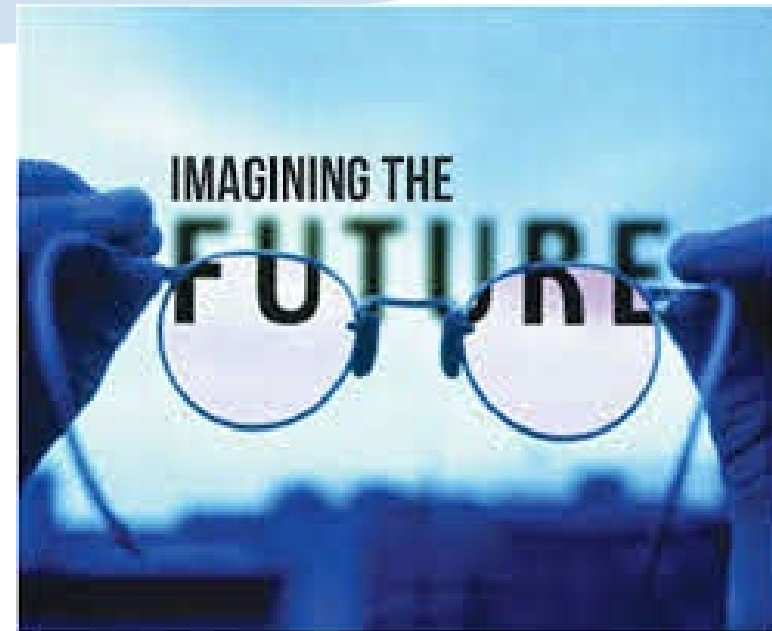
- **Good participation:** 53 attendees from 18 countries
- **Positive feedback:** meaningful conversations, participatory, caring, stimulating, different points of view across continents, well structured, poll was a good instrument to collect obstacles
- **Nice reports:** blog posts on HangingTogether.org



2020: Open Science Discussion Series 2020



**WHAT DOES AN
IDEAL FUTURE
STATE LOOK LIKE
FOR THE OPEN
SCIENCE
ECOSYSTEM?**



2020: Open Science Discussion Series 2020



In the ideal future:

- Culture has changed
- All Research Processes are Open, Transparent & Inclusive
- Infrastructures, Services and Data are Interoperable & Accessible
- **Librarians have all necessary skills**
- New Metrics and Rewards are in place
- **Libraries cooperate with everyone**



2020: Open Science Discussion Series 2020



In the ideal future: Librarians have all necessary skills

- Open Science and FAIR Principles are embedded in Librarian Skills
 - Soft Skills: able to walk in the shoes of Researchers / Students / Citizens
 - Hard Skills: vocabularies, metadata, basics of software programming, tools and data science



ORGANISING TEAM & TRAINERS



Rebecca Bryant

Senior Programme Officer,
OCLC



Annette Dortmund

Senior Product Manager,
OCLC



Brian Lavoie

Senior Research Scientist,
OCLC



Astrid Verheusen

Executive Director, LIBER



Tatsiana Yankelevich

Training Coordinator, LIBER



Athina Papadopoulou

Events & Partnerships
Coordinator, LIBER

Workshop planning

Goals

- Develop a workshop that supports librarian skills development in “soft skills” development
- Collaboratively pilot

Target audiences

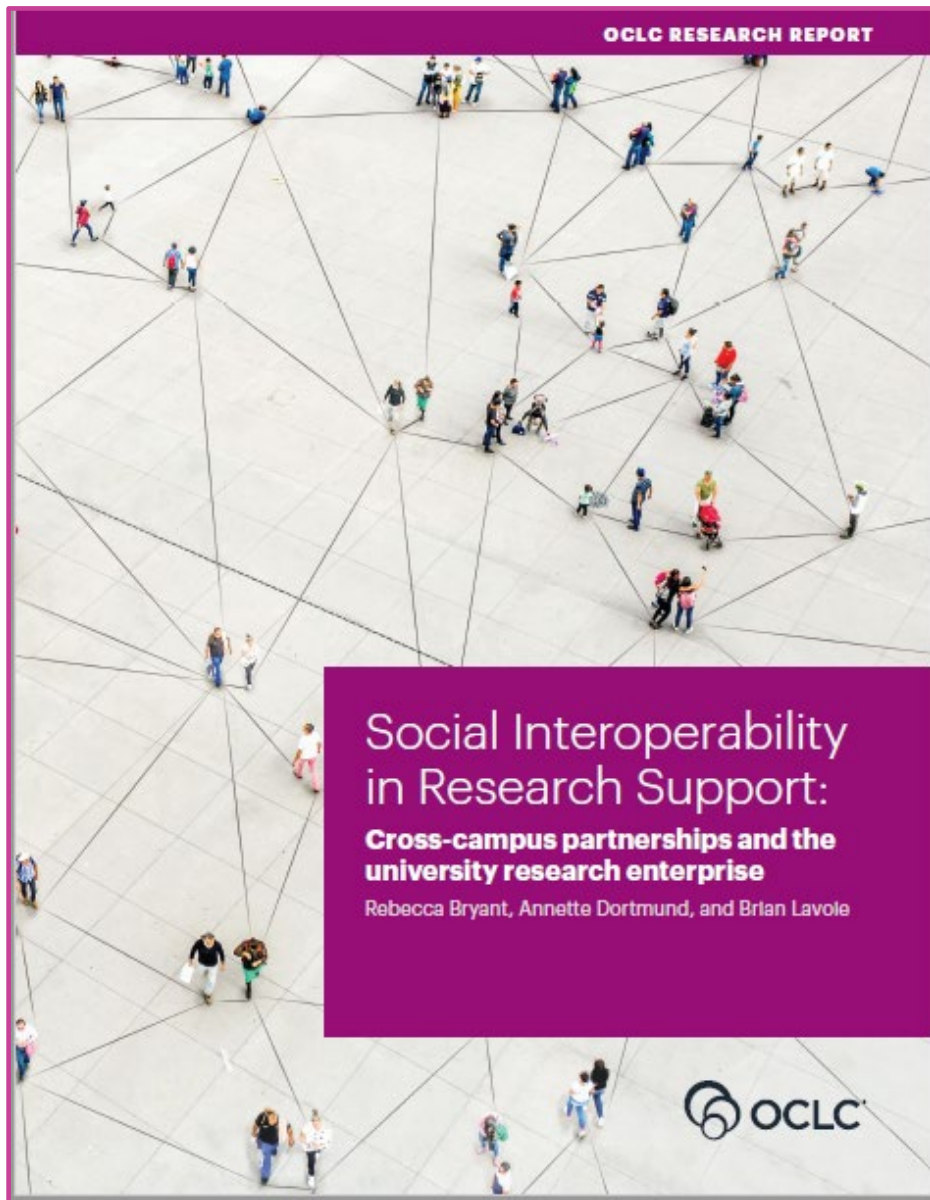
- Mid-level library managers and practitioners at research universities
- Global, particularly trans-Atlantic
- Participation restricted to:
 - LIBER members
 - OCLC Research Library Partnership affiliates

High level format

- Three 90-minute sessions
- Three consecutive weeks
- Combination of presentations & small group discussions
- Goal of about 40 participants
- Advance reading/handouts

Registration & outreach

- Jointly promoted by both organizations to their audiences
- Beginning in mid April



Rebecca
Bryant, PhD



Annette
Dortmund,
PhD



Brian Lavoie,
PhD

Summary

- Examines perspectives of non-library campus stakeholders
- Documents the challenges
- Offers a framework for understanding the key stakeholders
- Offers strategies & tactics

Scope & Methodology

- 22 semi-structured interviews with non-library stakeholders (but not researchers)
- US research universities
- Focus on research activities, including open science, not teaching & learning

[oc.lc/social-interoperability](https://oclc.org/social-interoperability)

Three-part series

May 4

- Understanding social and structural norms that shape academic institutional collaboration


May 11

- Case studies in successful social interoperability

May 18

- Making your plan for developing cross-functional relationships at our institution

<https://libereurope.eu/article/building-strategic-relationships-to-advance-open-scholarship-at-your-institution-workshop-series-on-social-interoperability/>

An aerial photograph of a busy city street. A white and green double-decker bus is the central focus, moving from left to right. The bus has the number '35461' on its side. The street is filled with various cars, including a yellow taxi on the right. In the background, there's a sidewalk with parked cars and a building. Two speech bubbles are overlaid on the image: a green one on the left and an orange one on the right.

[I learned] that some unexpected stakeholders are in fact very valuable to meet the goals of open science.

I thought the fact that I found relationship building difficult was somehow 'my fault', but this made me realise that complexity is in-built in a university, and I just need to learn to 'roll with that'.

SESSION #1:

Understanding social and structural norms that shape academic institutional collaboration



Content

- Introduction to the Social Interoperability report & the concept of “social interoperability”
- Universities as “complex adaptive systems”
- Framework of relevant campus stakeholders
- Format
 - Presentations
 - Polls
 - Small group discussions
 - Sharing about local conditions/challenges
 - Identifying key stakeholders

Social Interoperability

[soh-shuhl in-ter-op-er-uh-bil-i-tee]

The creation and maintenance of working relationships across individuals and organizational units that promote collaboration, communication, and mutual understanding.

The counterpart of “technical interoperability,” and equally essential



[I learned] that I can be prepared with a welcome packet with ideas on how our units can work together to give to whomever is hired in the new Research Tech role rather than wait to get them settled.



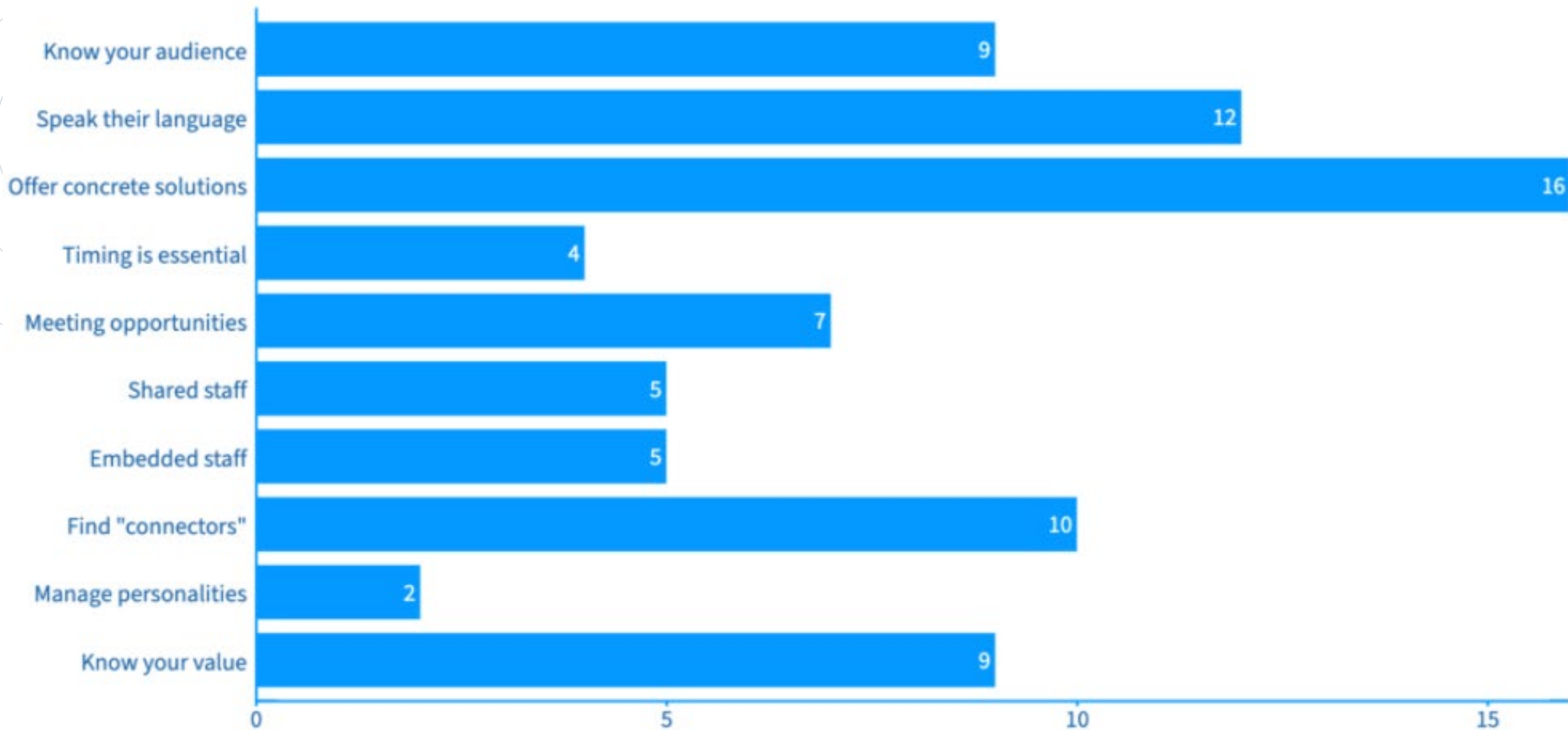
SESSION #2:
Case studies in successful social interoperability




Content

- Overview of strategies and tactics (the “soft skills” to facilitate social interoperability)
- Explore these in the context of case studies of successful cross-unit collaboration
 - Wageningen University & Research (Netherlands)
 - University of Illinois (United States)
 - University of Waterloo (Canada)
- Format
 - Presentation
 - Small group discussions
 - Polls

Poll #5: Waterloo: What tactics were important for making this case study successful? (check as many as apply)





[The most useful thing I learned was] the prompt questions for starting discussions with faculty.

SESSION #3:

Making your plan for developing cross-functional relationships at your institution



Content

- Return to the stakeholders & begin creating a plan
- Review a script for learning about other units
- Identify barriers to action
- Format
 - Presentation
 - Small group discussions
 - Polls

A script for learning about other units

- Part of Rutgers University-New Brunswick Libraries Strategic Planning Initiative
- Useful for learning about:
 - Goals
 - Opportunities
 - Pain points
 - Potential for collaboration

A script for learning about other units used at Rutgers University-New Brunswick⁴³

1. In what major ways do you see the University's work and focus changing during the next 2-3 years?
2. How are these changes affecting the work and focus of your school/department/program (unit)?
3. What are your unit's goals for the next 2-3 years?
4. What about your responsibilities within the unit? What are your top responsibilities now, and how do you see these changing over the next 2-3 years?
5. What challenges must your unit



Results



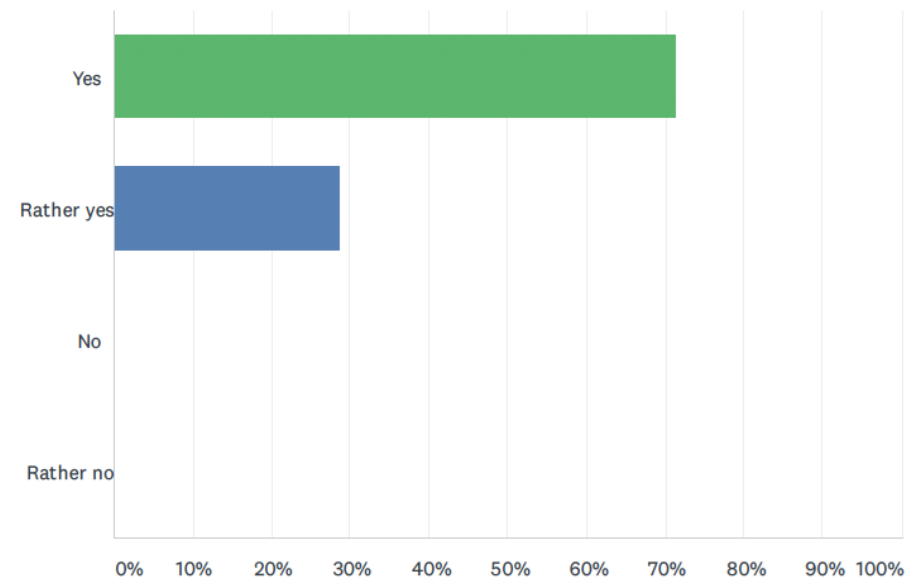
High series retention & positive evaluations

- 41 participants from 15 countries on 3 continents
- High retention throughout the series:

Session 1	35
Session 2	31
Session 3	29

Q3 Did you find the series useful for your professional development? Do you see yourself applying the skills you learnt at work?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 0



Participants were motivated

This was great. Usually, you read a professional paper like the *Social Interoperability* report and say to yourself, "that was interesting." But you don't really have the time or opportunity to think through application.

This helped me and will make a difference in my work.

Doing this in a series of 3 sessions forced me (in a good way) to commit the time. The organizers emphasis on the limited number of participant also forced my attention and responsibility.

The material was great. I had read the report but am working through the cited articles. Those are expanding my sense of scale. **I appreciate that you provided a highly curated list of readings** because I would realistically not get through a huge list.

. . . the global nature of the breakouts . . . was AMAZING - very helpful to see how common our challenges are and appreciate the distinctions.

What's one word to describe how you feel about cross-campus collaborations at your institution?

Session 1

multi-faceted

overwhelming

expectations

confusi

challenging

decentralised

difficult

chall

absolute be
improving

End of Session 3

enjoyable

intimidated but prepared

potentially ready to dive in stressed

complexity system **slow** difficulty

optimistic

rewarding ready complex part intrigued uphill curious

abused ready to try inbuilt vital intrigued interested
evolving slowly but surely



Next steps

- Finish assessing the pilot
- Discuss next opportunities, both individually and through continued collaboration
- Some participants also asked for a “reunion” of sorts to reconnect and share on progress in 6+ months
- **Is this training YOU would be interested in? For you *or* for your institution?**



Questions?

Rebecca Bryant
@RebeccaBryant18

Astrid Verheusen
@AstridVerheusen

