

Background and History of the “ERIAL Project”

David Green
Associate University Librarian
Northeastern Illinois University



March 30–April 2, 2011
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Starting at the beginning

Program Description

Anthropologists and librarians will present the findings from a **two-year anthropological study of five diverse institutions**: including the significance of the faculty/librarian relationship, an examination of student research skills, and the assessment of information literacy. In addition to examining the study results, conference attendees will use a detailed take-home toolkit to learn about planning an anthropological study, and will engage in role-playing activities to learn and practice three anthropological methods to apply in their libraries.



March 30–April 2, 2011
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Starting at the beginning

- LITA Conference 2007
- LSTA Research Grants 2008
- Can we do an ethnographic study in Illinois?



March 30–April 2, 2011
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Starting at the beginning

- Discussions with Nancy Foster
- Discussions with colleagues
- Discussions with State Library [\$100k Minimum]
- This would have to be big



March 30–April 2, 2011
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

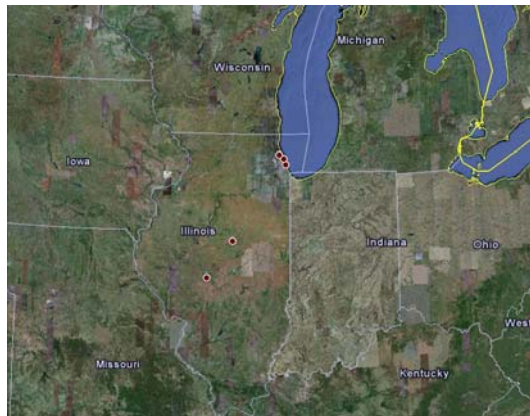
Make no small plans...

- 5 (very different) institutions
- 2 full time anthropologists
- About 25 librarians
- Funding for (almost) 2 years
- **Ethnographic Research in Illinois Academic Libraries**

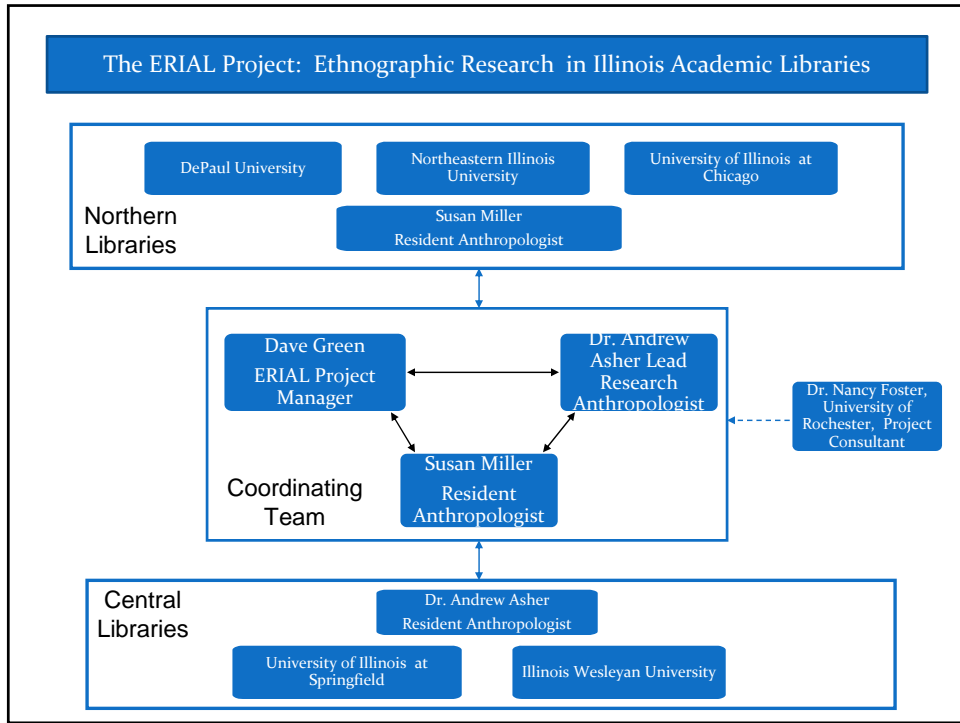


March 30–April 2, 2011
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Make no small plans...



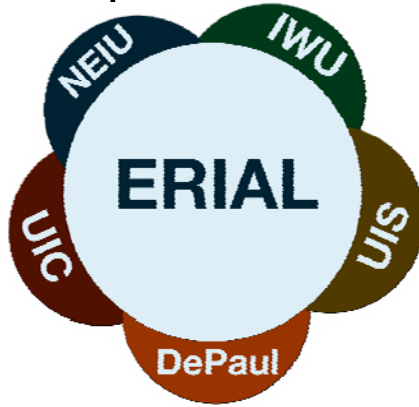
March 30–April 2, 2011
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



A very demanding project

- Almost 30 meetings a month
- Cohesive research core, additional local pursuits
- Multiple training sessions, extensive data gathering
- Transcription of all interviews, data analysis
- Other deliverables created

Make no small plans...



 **acrl** 2011
peer reviewed

March 30–April 2, 2011
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania