

Identifying Relevant Communities of Practice

“Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.” -[Etienne & Beverly Wenger-Trayner](#)

“Communities of Practice can engage in a wide variety of activities, from co-teaching and learning new tools to creating and modeling best practices, among others, all with the goal of collective learning as practitioners in their field.” [ARL](#)

Brainstorm a list of communities of practice you are currently participating in. Then make a list of potential new communities of practice you would like to investigate or join - or even start. Remember, CoPs can be large or small; formal or informal; diffuse or close-knit; etc.

Some examples:

International

- Twitter
- General professional listservs
- Google groups
- [Digital POWRR Slack](#)

National

- National professional organizations such as ALA, SAA, [National Digital Stewardship Association](#), DLF, Code4Lib
- More domain-focused professional orgs such as [AMIA](#), [ARI](#), [CoSA](#), [ALHHS](#),

Regional

- Regional archival orgs (MAC, MARAC, NWA, SRMA, SSA, NEA) (see SAA's [list](#) for more)
- Regional code4lib groups

State

- [Mid-Michigan Digital Practitioners Group](#)
- [Society of Indiana Archivists](#)
- [Society of Ohio Archivists](#)

Local

- City/metro region orgs (Chicago Area Archivists, etc)
- Workgroups/committees at your place of work
- Meet-up type groups
- Local historical societies