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Review of Beyond the Silos of the LAMs: Collaboration among Libraries, Archives, and Museums

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Review of *Beyond the Silos of the LAMs: Collaboration among Libraries, Archives, and Museums*

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Diane M. Zorich, Günter Waibel and Ricky Erway, *Beyond the Silos of the LAMs: Collaboration among Libraries, Archives, and Museums* (OCLC Research Publication, 2008).
www.oclc.org/research/publications/library/2008/2008-05.pdf

In summary, *Beyond the Silos of the LAMs* contains extremely relevant content, ideas, and processes when considering any collaboration for shared services. It is well worth reading!

This OCLC Research Publication contains vital and relevant content and processes for libraries, archives, and museums (LAMs) despite being published in 2008. The report provides an extensive overview of the discussions around LAM collaboration on common services and the pros and cons of close collaboration, with a special focus on academic campuses.

All library and museum types and sizes will find the content useful, regardless of whether they are involved in LAM or any other type of collaboration endeavor. The authors present an excellent process for bringing groups together to discuss common issues and challenges related to collaboration. One highly useful feature is the Collaboration Continuum presented in the report. Although the focus is, of course, on LAMs, the continuum stages and discussions are valuable to any conversation around collaboration. Another highlight is the catalysts for collaboration section. Vision, mandate, incentives, change agents, mooring, resources, flexibility, external catalysts, and trust are included.

The report describes a process of having five institutions look at how the library and archives/museums on campus could be integrated. Project methodology, results, discussion, and updates are provided. Institutions involved are the University of Edinburgh, Princeton University, Smithsonian Institution, Victoria and Albert Museum, and Yale University. Each entity articulated visions/goals for its organization and then narrowed down to select goals. The process for deselecting items makes for good reading as it applies to any topic.

