No Library is an Island!

How Singapore Management University (SMU) Libraries collaborate with other academic libraries in Singapore and beyond on projects, initiatives, and taskforces

Presenter

M.A Rajen Munoo

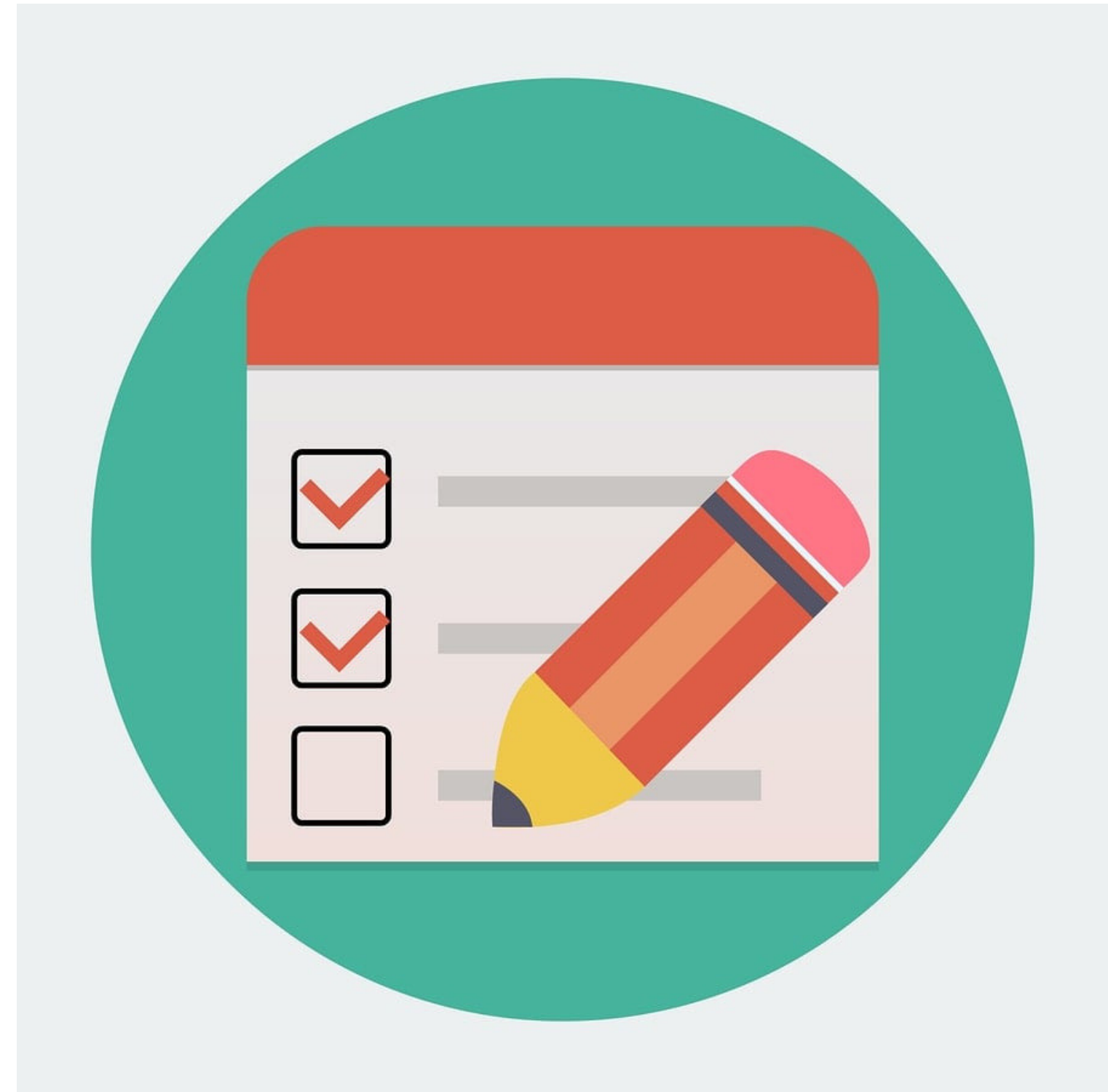Advisor, Learning Programmes and Global Relations
SMU Libraries

What I will cover today

Topic 1: Back to Basics

Topic 2: Case Study: SAUL Collaboration
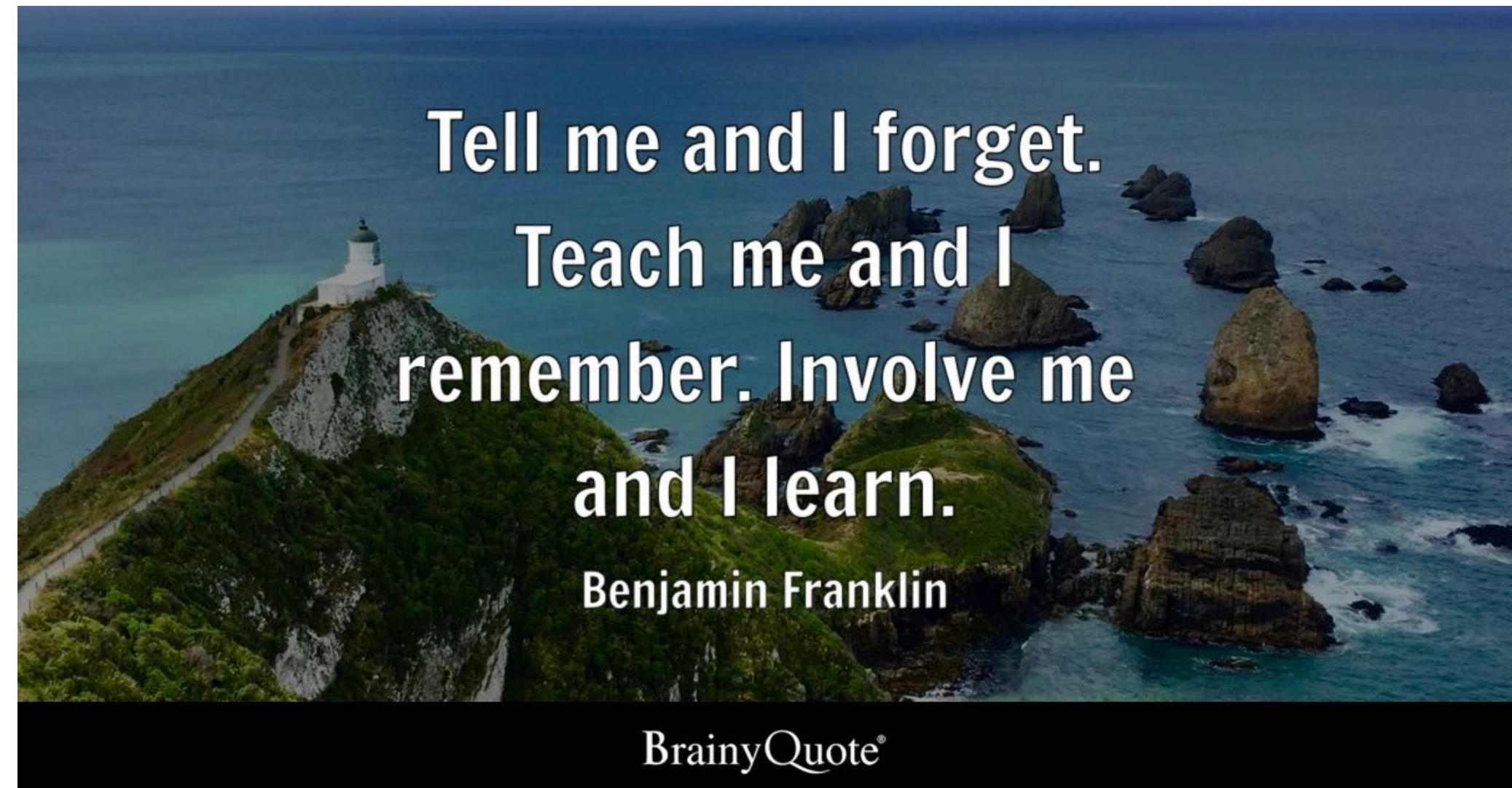
Topic 3: Parting Thoughts

Q&A

Topic 1: Back to Basics

Let's ask Google

Go to: www.google.com
Type in: What is collaboration?

Time: 2 mins

Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.

Benjamin Franklin

BrainyQuote®

Source: https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/benjamin_franklin_383997

✦ AI Overview   ⋮

Collaboration is **the process of two or more individuals, groups, or organizations working together to achieve a common goal or complete a task**. It involves sharing ideas, knowledge, and resources to produce something greater than what any individual could achieve alone. 🔗

Here's a more detailed explanation:

Key aspects of collaboration:

Shared Purpose:
Collaboration is driven by a common objective or goal that all participants are working towards. 🔗

Interdependence:
Collaborators rely on each other's contributions and expertise to achieve the shared goal. 🔗

Communication and Coordination:
Effective collaboration requires clear communication and coordination among all participants. 🔗

Synergy:
The combined effort of collaborators often leads to a better outcome than the sum of individual efforts. 🔗

Defining Collaboration | Types of Collaboration and How to Improve ...
12 Jan 2024 — Collaboration is a partnership; a union; the act of producing or making somethi...

◍ Webex Blog   ⋮

Collaboration - Wikipedia
Collaboration (from Latin com- "with" + laborare "to labor", "to work") is the process of two or...

W Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia   ⋮

What Is Collaboration? - Definiton, Benefits & Types - Simpplr
Collaboration definition. Collaboration is when people work together to complete a task or...

S̲ Simpplr   ⋮

Show all

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I asked Copilot:

What are the synonyms for collaboration?

Copilot ⓘ

Here are several synonyms and related terms for **collaboration**, depending on the context in which you're using it:

General Synonyms

- Cooperation
- Partnership
- Teamwork
- Alliance
- Synergy
- Joint effort
- Coordination
- Association
- Contributive work
- Collective action

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Collaborating with Stakeholders: Who are they?

Primary Stakeholders

- Students
- Faculty and Researchers
- Librarians and Library Staff

Institutional Stakeholders

- University Administration
- Academic Departments
- IT Services and Campus Infrastructure
- Centres, Institutes, Labs

External Stakeholders

- Alumni and Donors
- Publishers and Vendors
- Professional Associations
- Community Members and Public Users
- Government and Accreditation Bodies

Strategic Alignment

- SMU Libraries Strategic Plan, 2023- 2025 direction is to "*Collaborate in innovative ways with influential stakeholders and partners in areas of strategic importance*".

- The Libraries build and nurture relationships to leverage our strengths and resources for the collective good of our communities – from local to global."

- This is further underscored with goals such as "to foster connections amongst the members of the Singapore Alliance of University Libraries".

Source:
https://library.smu.edu.sg/sites/library.smu.edu.sg/files/library/pdf/StrategicPlan2021-25Web.pdf

VISION

To be a world-renowned university library. We advance research, education, complex problem solving, and cultivate lifelong learning through innovative approaches, information discovery and strategic

VALUES

Singapore Alliance of University Libraries (SAUL) Collaborations

Singapore Alliance of University Libraries (SAUL): Members

(Recently Joined in 2023)

Seven Taskforces and Terms of Reference (TOR)

Licensing E-Resources Task Force (SAULeres)
TOR: To enhance access and expand e-resources at sustainable pricing for the universities
Lead: NUS

Library Technology Services Task Force (SAULTech)
TOR: To provide technical expertise and to advance the application of Information and Computing Technologies (ICT) in library services and operations
Lead: NIE

Copyright Task Force
TOR: To provide advisory to members upon consultation with legal office
Lead: SIT

Knowledge Sharing & Staff Development Task Force
TOR: To provide opportunities for members to develop expertise
Lead: NTU

Seven Taskforces and Terms of Reference (TOR)

Digital Literacy Task Force (DLTf)
TOR: To develop a framework for use by the AUs that will complement MOE's DLF
Lead: SMU

Physical Resource Sharing Task Force
TOR: To enable resource sharing and access to physical collections and spaces available in all SAUL member libraries
Lead: SUTD

Research Services Task Force (RSTf)
TOR: To enhance research support in our parent institutions and to facilitate research productivity of our researchers
Lead: SMU

Examples of Collaborations that Create Meaningful Impact

Reference: https://ink.library.smu.edu.sg/saulcopyright2022/Program/

Examples of Collaborations that Create Meaningful Impact

Reference: https://ink.library.smu.edu.sg/rstf2023/program/

Examples of Collaborations that Create Meaningful Impact

NUS Libraries chairs the SAULeres (pronounced "solaris") taskforce, leading partnerships with major publishers to negotiate consortia subscription deals for electronic resources, which includes multiyear contracts.

The SAULeres task force has also championed transformative read-and-publish agreements that shift the conventional academic publishing model to an open access paradigm.

This strategic partnership has not only resulted in substantial cost savings, but it has also ensured uniform access to electronic journals, and even databases for some SAUL member institutions.

Source: https://nuslibraries-highlights.shorthandstories.com/2023-building-nus-libraries-of-the-future-today/index.html

Role: Chair

Deliverables:
a) Develop a Digital Literacy Framework
b) Develop Digital Literacy Learning Objects

Developed a Terms of Reference (TOR) or Charter

Singapore Alliance of University Libraries (SAUL):
Digital Literacy Taskforce (DLTf)
Terms of Reference – February 2021 (DRAFT)

1.1. The Ministry of Education, Singapore (MOE) has developed a nation-wide Digital Literacy Framework (DLF) to equip students at all levels to thrive in a digital society.

1.2. The Singapore Alliance of University Libraries (SAUL) comprising seven university libraries established a Digital Literacy Taskforce (DLTf) to complement the MOE DLF in the Autonomous Universities (AUs).

1.3. The AUs have been providing information and digital literacy programmes in their respective institutions for many years. With MOE DLF in place, it is timely to collaborate to develop a framework for the AUs.

1.4. This will leverage expertise across the AUs and avoid duplication of efforts, including the work done in this regard by the National Library Board (NLB) to customize programmes to meet the specific needs of the students and faculty that each AU library serves.

1.5. Stakeholder involvement and consultations will inform the work of the Taskforce in achieving their goals and outcomes.

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2   Scope and Remit

2.1. The remit of the DLTf is to develop a framework for use by the AUs that will complement MOE's DLF.

2.2. The scope of the project will involve amongst others:
- Gathering information and managing expectations from stakeholders
- Defining common learning outcomes for the AUs
- Developing digital learning objects and digital learning experiences which can be shared and embedded into the AU's digital literacy programmes.

3   Goals and Outcomes

3.1. The DLTf will approach use a multipronged approach to achieve its goals and outcomes:

3.1.1. Information Gathering
- Establish a contact in MOE as a resource person for the project to understand the overarching national outcomes and expectations for the AUs. Furthermore, for information exchange and guidance for alignment.
- Understand the digital literacy initiatives and efforts undertaken by the polytechnics and the National Library Board (NLB).

3.1.2. Synthesis
- Use the latest MOE DLF to identify common learning outcomes for the AUs.
- Map existing information and digital literacy programmes to the learning outcomes to identify gaps and best practices.

3.1.3. Implementation
- Identify and recommend common learning objects.
- Subject to funding, design and develop common learning objects for use by the AUs.
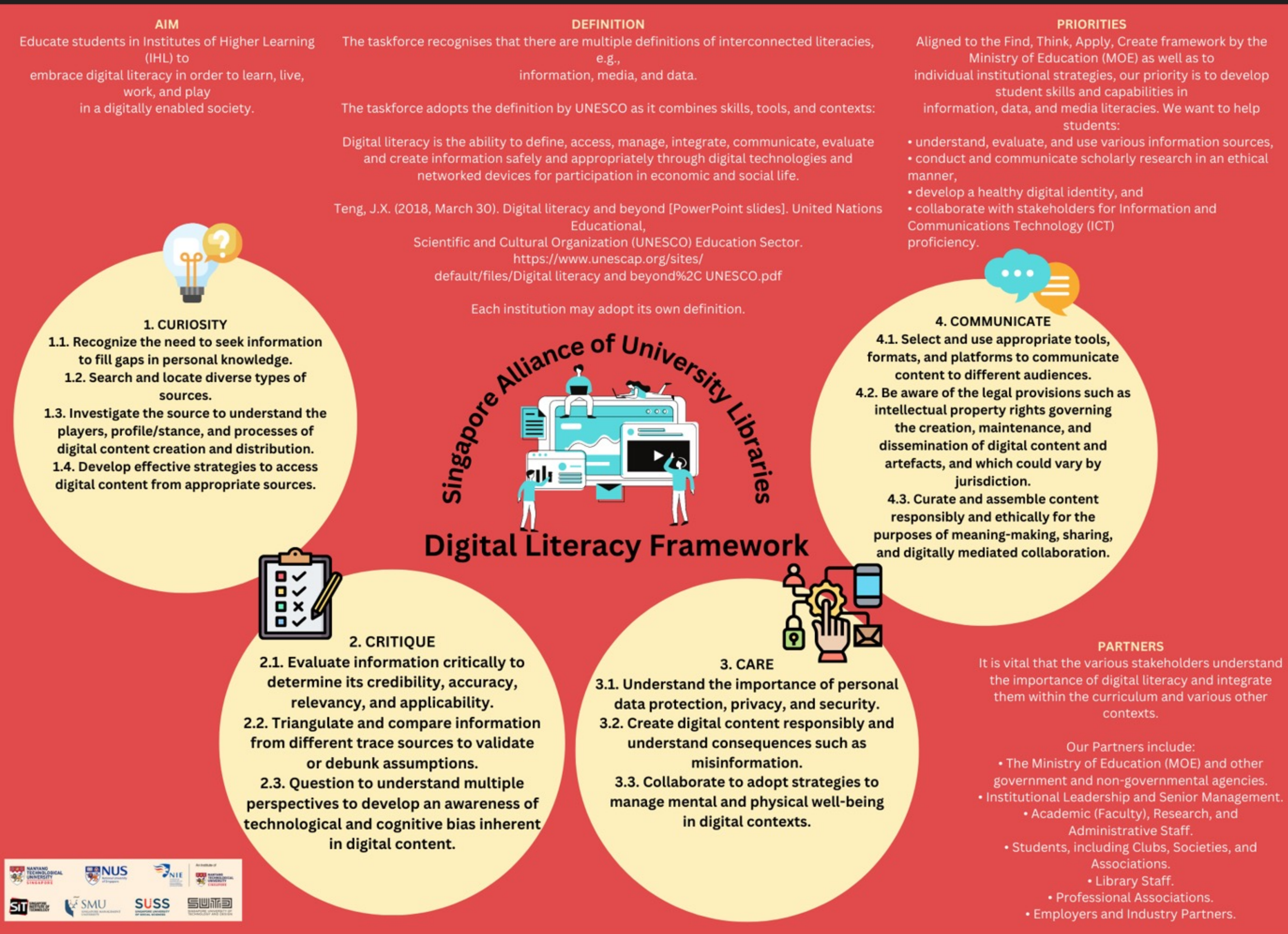
4   Membership and Meetings

4.1. The current membership comprises of representatives from seven academic libraries. (See Appendix 1).

4.2. The membership appointment will be for a period of two years.

4.3. The committee may co-opt other subject matter or domain experts for specified periods of time to facilitate information and knowledge sharing.

4.4. Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of every month and notes from the meetings will be communicated to all the members.

4.5. The Chair will report updates at the SAUL Meeting and other appropriate channels.

AIM
Educate students in Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL) to
embrace digital literacy in order to learn, live, work, and play
in a digitally enabled society.

DEFINITION
The taskforce recognises that there are multiple definitions of interconnected literacies, e.g.,
information, media, and data.

The taskforce adopts the definition by UNESCO as it combines skills, tools, and contexts:

Digital literacy is the ability to define, access, manage, integrate, communicate, evaluate and create information safely and appropriately through digital technologies and networked devices for participation in economic and social life.

Teng, J.X. (2018, March 30). Digital literacy and beyond [PowerPoint slides]. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Education Sector. https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Digital literacy and beyond%2C UNESCO.pdf

Each institution may adopt its own definition.

PRIORITIES
Aligned to the Find, Think, Apply, Create framework by the Ministry of Education (MOE) as well as to individual institutional strategies, our priority is to develop student skills and capabilities in information, data, and media literacies. We want to help students:
• understand, evaluate, and use various information sources,
• conduct and communicate scholarly research in an ethical manner,
• develop a healthy digital identity, and
• collaborate with stakeholders for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) proficiency.

Singapore Alliance of University Libraries
Digital Literacy Framework

1. CURIOSITY
1.1. Recognize the need to seek information to fill gaps in personal knowledge.
1.2. Search and locate diverse types of sources.
1.3. Investigate the source to understand the players, profile/stance, and processes of digital content creation and distribution.
1.4. Develop effective strategies to access digital content from appropriate sources.

2. CRITIQUE
2.1. Evaluate information critically to determine its credibility, accuracy, relevancy, and applicability.
2.2. Triangulate and compare information from different trace sources to validate or debunk assumptions.
2.3. Question to understand multiple perspectives to develop an awareness of technological and cognitive bias inherent in digital content.

3. CARE
3.1. Understand the importance of personal data protection, privacy, and security.
3.2. Create digital content responsibly and understand consequences such as misinformation.
3.3. Collaborate to adopt strategies to manage mental and physical well-being in digital contexts.

4. COMMUNICATE
4.1. Select and use appropriate tools, formats, and platforms to communicate content to different audiences.
4.2. Be aware of the legal provisions such as intellectual property rights governing the creation, maintenance, and dissemination of digital content and artefacts, and which could vary by jurisdiction.
4.3. Curate and assemble content responsibly and ethically for the purposes of meaning-making, sharing, and digitally mediated collaboration.

PARTNERS
It is vital that the various stakeholders understand the importance of digital literacy and integrate them within the curriculum and various other contexts.

Our Partners include:
• The Ministry of Education (MOE) and other government and non-governmental agencies.
• Institutional Leadership and Senior Management.
• Academic (Faculty), Research, and Administrative Staff.
• Students, including Clubs, Societies, and Associations.
• Library Staff.
• Professional Associations.
• Employers and Industry Partners.

Digital Literacy Framework

Insights:

• Adopted UNESCO's definition of digital literacy

• Lists aims, priorities, partners

• Focus on 4 areas:
  ○ Curiosity
  ○ Critique
  ○ Care
  ○ Communicate

Digital Literacy Learning Object

Topic 1: Collaboration Skills for Group Projects in Blended-Learning Environments

- Blended or hybrid learning

- Group work and collaboration in face-to-face and online environments

Topic 2: Bias and Influence in Search Tools

- How internet search engines work

- Algorithmic bias in search results

Topic 3: Evaluating Information from Digital Sources

- SIFT (Stop, Investigate, Find, Trace) and S.U.R.E concepts to evaluate digital information

- Open web content and peer-reviewed content

Topic 4: Cybersecurity Threats and Digital Well-Being

- Cybersecurity threats in academic environments

- Tips for digital well-being

Topic 5: Understanding Digital Rights and Responsibilities

- Digital rights and responsibilities

- Creative Commons
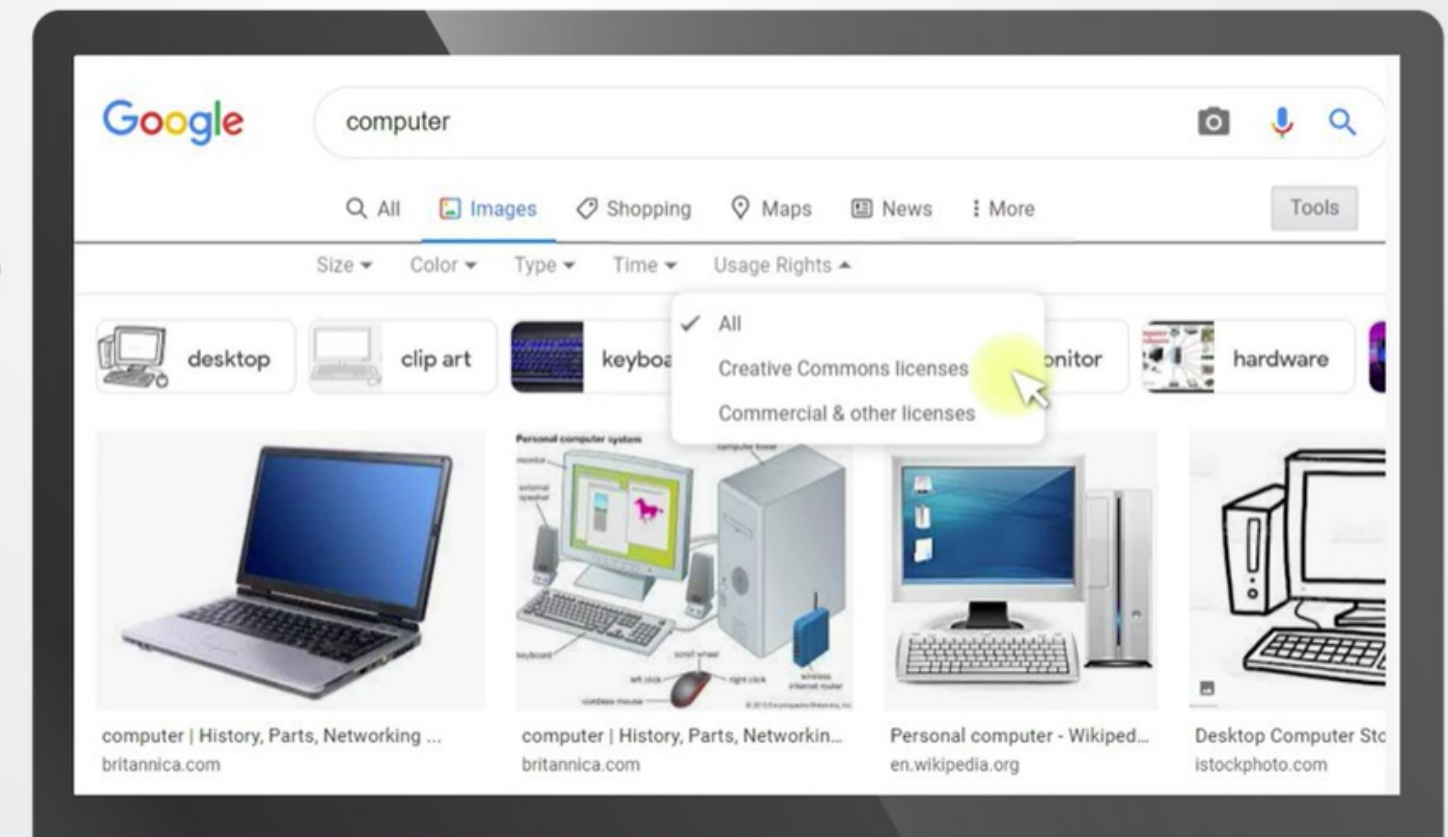
Examples of Collaborations that Create Meaningful Impact

Output:

- Incorporated in instructional programmes

- Available as an OER in SIT Repository

- Freely available for anyone to use or reuse

Reference: https://irr.singaporetech.edu.sg/collections/information_and_Digital_Literacy_Learning_Objects/6069155

Topic 3: Parting Thoughts

Thinking Questions

- How can we elevate our collaborations with our stakeholders from being beyond providing venue, supporting logistics, arranging refreshments, setting up registration, to something more strategic?

- Does having/signing more Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) mean more partnerships and collaborations?

- Do collaborations end up one-sided or become political with personal agendas?

SMU's Office of Partnerships & Engagement

Source: https://www.smu.edu.sg/partnerships/office-partnerships-engagement

SMU Libraries' Strategic Partnership Approach

International Partnership. Objectives

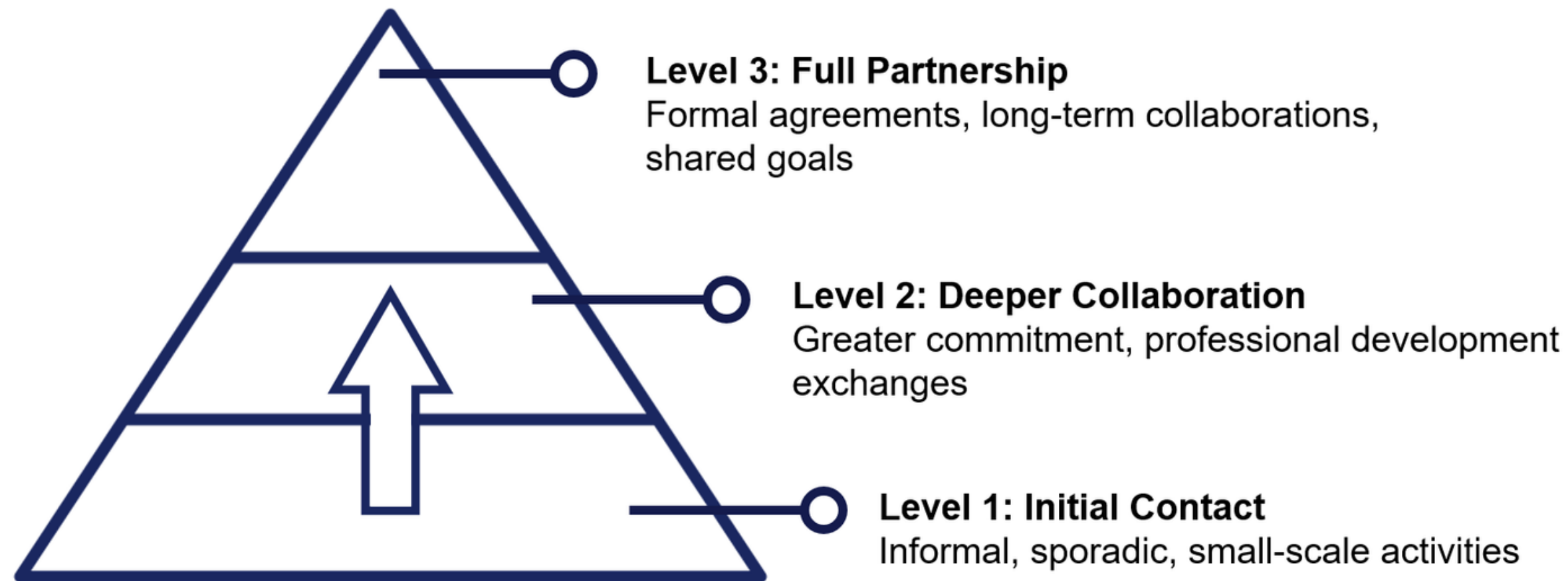| Visibility & Reputation	Institutional strategies	Professional development	Benchmarking & improvement
Contribute to internationalisation and reputational building efforts of SMU.	Drive institutional strategies through the development and positioning of SMU Libraries' programmes.	Facilitate professional development of staff of SMU Libraries.	Facilitate benchmarking of SMU Libraries against peer and aspirant universities for continuous improvement.

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SMU Libraries' Strategic Partnership Approach

Level 3: Full Partnership
Formal agreements, long-term collaborations, shared goals

Level 2: Deeper Collaboration
Greater commitment, professional development exchanges

Level 1: Initial Contact
Informal, sporadic, small-scale activities

Partnerships with international institutions can take various forms, building in depth and commitment over time. From informal initial contacts to full-fledged, long-term collaborations, each level of partnership brings unique benefits and opportunities for SMU Libraries to advance its strategic goals.

Levels of Partnership

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Five C's for Collaboration

1. Charter or TOR for Compliance

2. Commitment for Completion

3. Cooperation not Competition

4. Communication for Clarity

5. Co-Creation for Co-Consumption

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- Do collaborations end up one-sided or become political with personal agendas?

Questions, Experiences, Thoughts and Comments

Thank you
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