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Cultivating Quality Collaboration

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Catalyst

April 2007

“Collaboration between Librarians and Information Technologists”
paper presented by Charlotte Slocum-Patriquin

A discussion of frameworks and practical examples employed by one institution to improving support for teaching and learning by bringing librarians and instructional technologists together to seamlessly support the discovery, evaluation, use, and presentation of information by faculty in the classroom and the scholarly products of undergraduate students.



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Support

August 2007

Planning grant application to the National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education (NITLE) to explore nature and components of successful collaboration between librarians and technologists in liberal arts colleges and develop a program proposal.



What IS collaboration?

November 2007

Planning group comprised of librarians, instructional technologists, a Director of Teaching and Learning, faculty, and IT staff representing web services and computing support from the three institutions develop a project and grant proposal for a practical, product-oriented workshop.



What IS Collaboration?

Leading questions:

What are the underlying fundamentals of, and models for, successful librarian and technologist collaboration?

How can we improve existing service delivery models?

What is the difference between collaboration and cooperation?

(How) Do organizational structure, leadership skill, personality traits, and facilities structure affect collaboration?



Share, Learn, Share; repeat

Cultivating Quality Collaboration workshop

Institutions will send a small campus group with mixed representation from the following areas: Library, Computing support and infrastructure, Faculty, and Administration



Share, Learn, Share; repeat

Case studies of campus collaboration

Discussion of institutional opportunities and challenges

Development of intra-campus collaborative projects

Inter-campus conversations and developmental feedback



Share, Learn, Share; repeat

Workshop Goals:

Applying concepts gathered through case-studies, discussions, and project presentations, each institution will develop a new, actionable, collaborative initiative.



Outcome 1: Initial Survey

Prior to the workshop, campus teams were sent a survey asking them to report on opportunities and challenges to collaboration at their institution.



Outcome 1: Collaboration Required?

Collaboration isn't mandatory

Collaboration often occurs



Outcome 1: Opportunities

Plethora of projects:

Digitization, writing, portfolios, portal launch, software support (SPSS, RefWorks), training...



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Outcome 1: Barriers

Organizational

Interpersonal

Other



Outcome 1: Examples

Respondents were asked to give examples of collaboration on their campus, and particular ones with which they were involved



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Outcome 1: Why examples Succeeded

Willingness to work together

Shared interests / goals

Clear timetable

Clear understanding of roles

Good communication

Mutual respect

Friendliness



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Outcome 1: It Would Have Been Better if....

There was more time

There was more communication

We had similar workdays



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Outcome 1: Define Collaboration

Being co-creative

Sharing of ideas and workloads

Achieving something greater than normal

A process to a better product...

But, the process is of equal importance



Outcome 2: Action Report

<http://sites.google.com/a/earlham.edu/cultivating-quality-collaboration/project-outcomes>

written by project organizers



Outcome 3: Campus Reports

<http://sites.google.com/a/earlham.edu/cultivating-quality-collaboration/project-outcomes>

Campus teams were sent a follow-up survey prompting them to assess the status of a collaborative project they undertook based on the workshop and submit a 500-word synopsis.



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Outcome 3: Example Projects

Shared IT/Library service desk

“Brown bag” style meetings to show off/assist with technology on campus

Course redesign

Creation of a Collaborative for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL)

Virtual tour redesign



Outcome 3: Beloit College

Campus-wide virtual tour redesign



Outcome 3: Earlham College

Teaching, Instruction, Pizza (TIP) Workshops

A catalyst to move from course-integrated BI
to...course-integrated IT



Outcome 3: Lawrence University

Course redesign project

Using recorded lectures that students would view prior to class thus freeing up class time for small group discussion, questions, quizzes, etc.



Outcome 4: Assess new collaborative initiatives

Status: Pending

Within one year after the workshop, all participating campus teams will then use wiki software to collaboratively author a report that distills their best thinking about the characteristics of effective collaboration.



Outcome 5: Identify and disseminate relevant scholarship on collaboration in higher education

Status: In progress



Share ideas about collaboration with NITLE institutions & others

Web site: <http://sites.google.com/a/earlham.edu/cultivating-quality-collaboration/>

Poster Session at ACRL

Presentation at CLAC/OBEGroup joint meeting at EDUCAUSE

Presentation at Midwest EDUCAUSE

Wisconsin Association of Academic Libraries



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Questions/Comments?



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The End