Collaboration (NSF PO = DAVID HANYCH)
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How do you build a TRUE collaboration?
  Not just a dance of partners?
- Aren't we also collaborating with the public?
- There is an assumption that collaborations
  will be program enhancing.
- The key is to find a collaborator(s) that
  will help you achieve what you could
  not on your own.
- If you aren't collaborating it will be harder
  to achieve STRATEGIC IMPACT.

?- Local vs. National partners
- Local partnerships that are vital to
  achieving outcomes and serving audience
- National partners provide expertise
- Even highly experienced partners (ex: Explorator..)
  should benefit from a collaboration w/
  a smaller partner

## Our initial ?s and interests

- How can libraries and museums collaborate more effectively? How can museums creating exhibits for libraries understand libraries' unique needs better?
- Collaborating w/ federal partners
- How does the Framework apply to professional audiences? How does collaboration factor in?
- How does the Framework get applied by smaller institutions in rural, isolated areas
- What's required? Why is collaboration essential? How do you manage the time it takes to collaborate?

## Working w/ Partners

- Defensiveness, confrontation at first
- How do you express the success of the collaboration (passion, enthusiasm) in your report?
- What's an indicator of a good collaboration?
- Collaborations can produce long lasting, organizational changes for partners.

- Collaboration between different ways of knowing ie: Western science & indigenous ways of knowing
- how do you work into your budget the unexpected successes of collaboration?
- Collaborators going in on additional proposals = a great indicator!
- Evaluation of collaboration should be qualitative.
- RELATIONSHIP describes qualitative changes

## Evaluating collaboration

- The collaboration ITSELF can be the unit of evaluation.
- What are the FAILURE points of collaborations?
- NSF wants to see what has failed.
- NSF wants to know to what extent does the project forge new collaboration or reinforce existing collaboration?
- You really should go in and look at what's happening 30 years out, not just right after!!

## What methods and when to evaluate collabs?

- formative and summative
- dont look just at the institutes but at the people who are now enabled to work together ie public and scientists.
- indicator: change in attitudes of the deliverers of content (scientists, educators), not just the receivers
- there is a need for quick-search of evaluations
- Difficulty: each collab is so special & individual that it's hard to say what exactly was effective.

Indicator of a good collab: transformative change.
→ deep listening, respect, conflict resolution
- there must be a lot in the business, organizational development literature
- check out mspnet. Math and science partnerships in universities.
- literature in the health, social services field
- We need a theoretical framework!
Continuum:
    Cooperation ————————————→ Collaboration

- How can we catalog and share what works best?
- Most of the time we focus on communicating the products of the collab.
- Books
  Collaboration: critical criteria for success (The Red Book) by Vicki Coates @ OMSI
  TEAMS project reports — insci.org?
- How do we state what a good collaboration is?

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- SMEC is a long-term collaborative that grew out of intrinsic need in the field
- NISEnet is a funded project providing extrinsic motivation ($$) to collaborate.
- The Framework doesn't address community impacts
- Use of web to evaluate collaborations. External evaluators do site visits to see how well partners are working together.
- One of the most interesting things about ~~Brooklyn~~ Queens Collab. are the unintended impacts. ~~Brooklyn~~ Library Evaluation should explicitly ask to see these.

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- Lynn & Dennis wrote a book and used focus groups, interviews to assess collaborations
- Important to look at folks who aren't collaborating to achieve what they want.
- In some projects the collaboration is as much the product as the means to an end.
- We collaborate b/c we want to share skill set but sometimes that is what it's all about
- One unintended impact: the higher quality of conversation at end vs. beginning of project It would not be as evident in the product (exhibit) as in the conversations btwn participants.