
Collaboration from a data provider's perspective

Jenn Riley
Metadata Librarian
Indiana University

Collaboration provides education

- Learn from both service providers and other data providers
 - Practical and theoretical lessons
 - Selection of software
 - Need to create “view” of metadata for shared environment
 - Improvements can be iterative
 - Community as resource
-

Collaboration promotes quality

- Demonstrates potential of how metadata can be used in a shared environment
 - Allows data providers to see the results of their efforts
 - Incentive for data provider to provide additional robustness
-

Collaboration encourages innovation

- “Two heads are better than one”
 - Innovations from each side can move to the other
 - Can negate the “chicken and egg” problem
 - Shared metadata can serve as a testbed for local improvements
-

Collaboration sets priorities

- Optional parts of the OAI protocol to implement
 - Adoption of new metadata formats
 - Exposure of new materials
 - Can de-prioritize things service providers normalize for their own purposes
-

Collaboration poses challenges

- Data providers must collaborate with multiple service providers
 - We can't customize metadata for each and every service provider
 - Loss of control is scary
 - Project-specific guidelines not enough
 - Community-based standards and best practices needed
 - No hacks!
-

The bottom line

Collaboration benefits everyone.
