

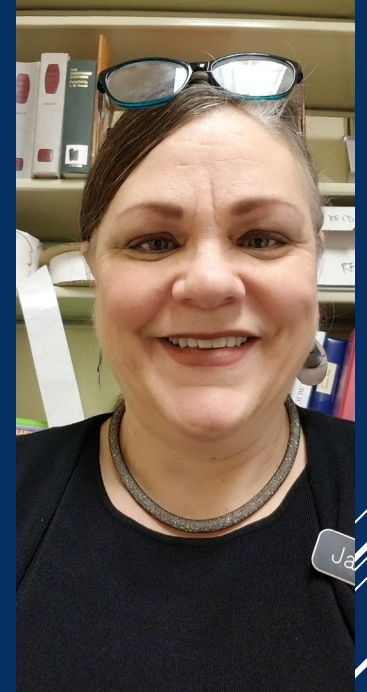
THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

Jackie Mills,
Mt. Angel Public Library
Oregon

STEAM Equity Conference
Oct. 23-24, 2023
Denver, CO

HI! I'M JACKIE MILLS

- Been a librarian for 30+ years
- The majority as a school librarian (Pre-12)
- 1 year in a college library
- Last 12 years in small, rural public libraries
- Have been a “collaborator” throughout my career, even before it was in vogue



MT. ANGEL PUBLIC LIBRARY, OR & ITS LIBRARY

The Town (population 3400):

- Main economy: agriculture
- 28.9% Hispanic; 45% in schools
- 56% Free/reduced lunch



The Library:

- 4,100 square feet; 29,000 items in the collection
- Part of the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service (18 libraries in 3 counties)
- Open 37 hours per week; 4 staff=2.5 FTE




TODAY'S AGENDA

- ▶ Why collaborate?
- ▶ What is collaboration?
- ▶ Who do we collaborate with?
- ▶ How do we collaborate effectively?
- ▶ Questions



WHY COLLABORATE?

- Maximize resources (time, money, effort)
 - Share expertise
 - Widen your footprint
 - Grant opportunities
 - Synergy
 - Good PR
 - Better serve your patrons!!!!
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WHAT IS COLLABORATION?



Meriam-Webster



- ▶ to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor.

My definition:

- ▶ Working with other like-minded people and organizations (to achieve a goal) to maximize resources for the benefit of all involved.



Trust

Compete	Co-exist	Communicate	Cooperate	Coordinate	Collaborate	Integrate
Competition for clients, resources, partners, public attention. 	No systematic connection between agencies.	Inter-agency information sharing (e.g. networking).	As needed, often informal, interaction, on discrete activities or projects.	Organizations systematically adjust and align work with each other for greater outcomes.	Longer term interaction based on shared mission, goals; shared decision-makers and resources.	Fully integrated programs, planning, funding. 

Turf


Loose

Tight

WHO DO WE COLLABORATE WITH?

- ▶ Schools
- ▶ Daycares/Preschools
- ▶ Homeschoolers
- ▶ Churches
- ▶ Food Banks
- ▶ Medical Offices
- ▶ Social Service Providers
- ▶ Other libraries/State Library
- ▶ Police and Fire Departments
- ▶ Scout Troops
- ▶ Museums
- ▶ Group Homes
- ▶ Local Businesses
- ▶ Senior Centers
- ▶ Assisted Living/Sr. Residences
- ▶ Extension Office/State University
 - ▶ 4-H
 - ▶ Master Gardeners
 - ▶ Regional STEM Hub Network

HOW DO WE COLLABORATE EFFECTIVELY?

- Be a presence in your community
 - Talk up your library everywhere you go
 - Start small (one person, one project)
 - COMMUNICATE
 - Don't give up
 - Maintain the relationships you have established
 - Remember that it takes TIME and effort
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QUESTIONS?

Also see:

Programming Librarian, “Five Mistakes You Might Be Making with Your Library Partnerships,” May 4, 2021, by Hannah Arata, ALA Public Programs Office

<https://programminglibrarian.org/articles/five-mistakes-you-might-be-making-your-library-partnerships>

South Metro STEM Partnership Newsletter, “Public Libraries, So Much More Than Books,” by Maren Zieba

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pweTiuOrpJPG-ejMs9eHOzE6UhNafUJV/view?fbclid=IwAR2ZbB4nryTCRb-eCh4Jwl8APCmjkYuOvm-B2a7z-pKaJZxVyMj9_cijqM8

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