Collaboration in the 21st Century School Library
Presented by Paige Bredenkamp
School Library Consultant, Wyoming State Library

Objectives of this presentation
1. Explore the meaning of collaboration
2. Explore possible partnerships
3. Levels of collaboration
4. Ways to initiate collaboration
5. The iterative process of collaboration
6. Resources

Collaboration: Definition according to Oxford Dictionary
"Action of working with someone to produce or create something."
"Traitorous cooperation with an enemy."
Another Definition

“When individuals come together to share their expertise and ideas in order to construct a fresh and innovative way of doing something”.

“Collaboration is a trusting, working relationship between two or more equal participants involved in shared thinking, shared planning, and shared creation of integrated instruction. Through a shared vision and shared objectives, student learning opportunities are created that integrate subject content and information literacy by co-planning, co-implementing, and co-evaluating students’ process in order to improve student learning in all areas of the curriculum.”

Patricia Montiel-Overall, “Towards a Theory of Collaboration for Teachers and Librarians”

Collaboration is not the goal...

Collaboration is the vehicle

*For creating learning opportunities*
What is the most effective way to achieve your goal?

For this, you need to determine what your goal for the lesson, the program, or the unit, is.

If your goal is to encourage reading throughout the summer, who may be able to work with you?
If your goal is to have students be familiar with the Engineering Design Process, who might have tools that would engage them in that?

If your goal is to design a problem-based project, who has a problem that needs to be solved?

If a goal of science teachers is to teach soil profiles, how might you be able to help?
If the goal of a teacher is to teach media literacy, how might you be able to help?

If the goal of the curriculum is to introduce students to coding, who in your community would be a good partner?

Benefits & Obstacles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BENEFITS:</th>
<th>OBSTACLES:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More resources by sharing</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More expertise being used</td>
<td>Lack of communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More programming options</td>
<td>Lack of mutual understanding of roles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reach more students</td>
<td>Different objectives</td>
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<td>Extend learning and curriculum connections</td>
<td>Conflicting personalities</td>
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<td>Unsupportive or indifferent administrators</td>
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<td>Inflexible schedules</td>
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<td>Lack of vision</td>
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Levels of Collaboration

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<th>Cooperation</th>
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From Montiel-Overall, Patricia
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### Levels of Collaboration

- **Coordination**
  - Mutual Schedule
  - Librarian offers resources
  - Shared program

- **Cooperation**
  - Instructional strategy, often with a project involved
  - Joint planning but divided work responsibilities

- **Integrated Instruction**
  - Integrated content instruction and information literacy instruction
  - Focus is on shared objectives and student outcomes
  - Requires librarian to have solid understanding of standards

- **Integrated Curriculum**
  - Integrating information literacy into school curriculum
  - Requires committed administrative support

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**Sample Collaboration Planning Form**

Find this and more in AASL’s Toolkit for Promoting School Library Programs:

[http://www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/tools/toolkits/promoting/plan](http://www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/tools/toolkits/promoting/plan)
What collaboration looks like
From “Toward a Theory of Collaboration for Teachers and Librarians” by Patricia Montiel-Overall.
School Library Media Research, vol. 8, April 2005
www.ala.org/aasl/slr

Not all collaboration will be successful...be ready to reflect on the effort and identify what went right, and what did not.
Reflection

Calvin and Hobbes by Bill Watterson

Resources

Definition of Collaboration
https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/collaboration


Toolkit for Promoting School Library Programs:
http://www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/tools/toolkits/promoting/plan

School/public library cooperative programs-highlights of successful school/public library partnerships:
http://www.ala.org/alsc/schoolplcoop

Contact Information

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