Using the Tools in the CollaboraTeS Toolbox to Get Work Done

*Using the Tools in the CollaboraTeS Toolbox to Get Work Done* <http://www.personal.kent.edu/~mbmaurer/UsingtheTools.html>.

CollaboraTeS Toolbox <http://platinum.ohiolink.edu/dms/collaborate/>.

Maurer, Margaret Beecher, Gammon, Julia A., and Pollock, Bonita M. “Developing Best Practices for Technical Services Cross-Institutional Collaboration.” *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* 51: 1-3, 179-193. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01639374.2012.733795>

*If you Build it, Will They Come? Building the Collaborative Infrastructure and the OhioLINK CollaboraTeS Toolbox /* Barbara J. Strauss, Margaret Maurer, and Julie Gedeon. (Preprint) <http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1007&context=msl_facpub>

Additional information on CollaboraTeS from various presentations is also available from my web page <http://www.personal.kent.edu/~mbmaurer>

Final Report of the Task Force on Cost/Value Assessment of Bibliographic Control submitted to the Heads of Technical Services in Large Research Libraries Interest Group, June, 2010. <http://repository.lib.ncsu.edu/publications/bitstream/1840.2/2300/1/>.

Environmental Conditions that Foster Collaboration

What features do successful collaborative projects have in common? The researchers selectively surveyed North American collaborative projects and found that some commonalities were present in more successful projects. These included:

* They have strong support from the top or from strong local advocates.
* They have pressing economic reasons to collaborate.
* They are geographically proximate, or they at least have good delivery systems.
* They have experience creating memoranda of understanding and other workflow agreements.
* They exhibit similar work cultures and collections.
* They have experience cooperating with each other.
* They hire a consultant and utilize good project planning and management practices.
* They utilize grant money to provide structure, accountability, and cash.
* They manage communications and staff buy-in well.
* They have a shared back end on their library automation system.
* They plan a collaboration that is manageable in size.
* They neutralize territoriality, particularly for already-existing workflows.
* They trust each other.

The conditions identified as fostering collaboration did not all appear to be present in each successful project, but some mix of them did, and successful projects exhibited a synergistic balance.