

Structure and Function of Cross-Disciplinary Collaborations and the Flow of Information

Deana D. Pennington

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87110 USA

Abstract

Increasingly, innovative research requires collaboration across multiple science, technology, and engineering disciplines. However, the number of research efforts that truly accomplish interdisciplinary goals are few. Collaborations are complex systems that must emerge from interactions between participants. Hence, in many ways collaborative teams can be viewed as a knowledge ecosystem and many of the high level theoretical constructs from ecology are analogous in the study of collaborative teams. This presentation will examine the structure and function of collaborative teams and introduce a model of the flow of information in new collaborations.