NLM Informationist Supplement Grant:
Daring to Dive into Documentation to Determine Impact

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
Noise harder on children than adults, hinders how they learn
By LAURAN NEERGAARD Associated Press Feb 13, 2016 (0)

Introduction

- three informationists
- NIH R01-funded research team
- two year National Library of Medicine (NLM) administrative supplement for informationist services (2014-2016)
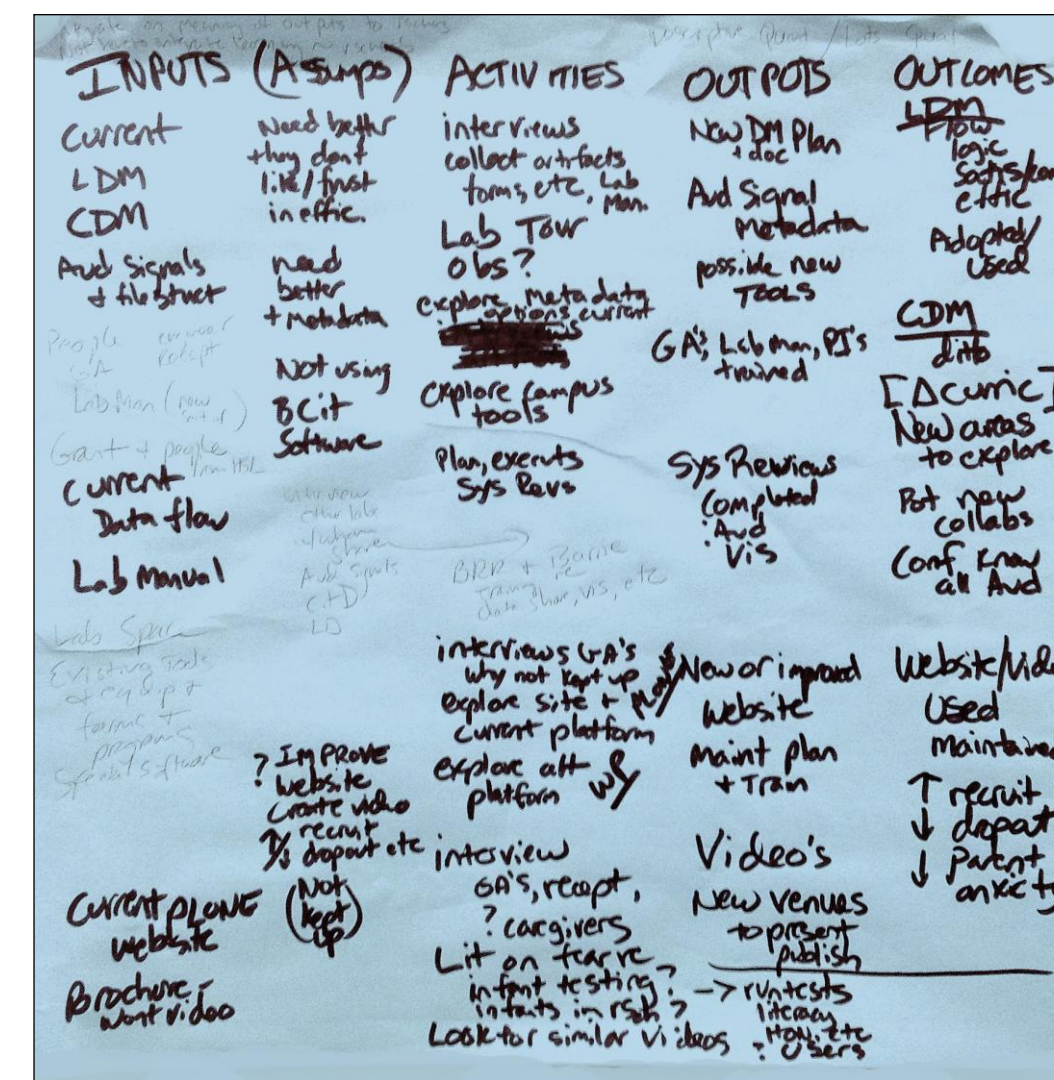
[Informationists are] data therapists! – PI's

Objective

Would our evaluation methods help us determine impacts resulting from this partnership?

Methods

Tracking the team's work

- logic models
- researcher and informationist interviews
- notes from over 30 team meetings and several debriefings
- qualitative researcher field notes and memos
- measures beyond Altmetrics
- detailed records of positive and negative impacts

Reviewing the data

Independently by two librarians (multiple iterations)

- to compile a master list of key themes,
- to find evidence of impact, including direct quotes, observations, and inferences

Themes emerging from data

- positive and negative impacts
- challenges
- successes
- replicable service ideas
- how researchers work
- lessons learned (e.g., for informationists, for the NLM grant program)

Selected impacts (products)

- new outreach website with multimedia for the Human Auditory Development Lab
- video clips of lab testing procedures for training and outreach
- video for AAAS presentation by PI, with clip selected by AP reporter to accompany press coverage worldwide

[AAAS video] is a home run for outreach. --PI

- JoVE publication (video accompanying manuscript demonstrates testing procedure developed by lab)

Behavioral Assessment of Hearing in 2 to 4 Year-old Children: A Two-interval, Observer-based Procedure Using Conditioned Play-based Responses

- comprehensive literature review for researchers (toward completion of a systematic review)
- review of lab data management
- database design documentation to provide a blueprint for future audio stimuli catalog development
- comparison of four citation/pdf managers for lab
- one JMLA publication; four presentations at national and regional library conferences

Results

[At] Every meeting I hear of something we have never heard of before… --PI

- use of a logic model at the start, and detailed recording of positive and negative impacts throughout, aided reporting of progress and impacts
- use of qualitative data and methods, including memos and field notes, helped the team…
  a) demonstrate the value of embedded informationists
  b) understand researchers' work context
  c) identify librarians' professional development needs, including expanded knowledge of research infrastructure, funding mechanisms, processes, timelines, jargon, staffing

On a 'big picture' level, the involvement of your team made us think of things both differently, and bigger. That is, we were not just trying to describe scientific findings to other researchers in similar fields, but we were talking about how best to disseminate findings, how to be more efficient, and how to communicate more broadly. Related, the emphasis on process, and how can we work collaboratively to improve how we conduct experiments and disseminate our findings was a great experience. -- PI

Conclusion

Varied evaluation techniques, including logic models, qualitative methods, and detailed recording of impacts helped demonstrate the impact of informationists embedded in research teams.