

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

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## 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 ”

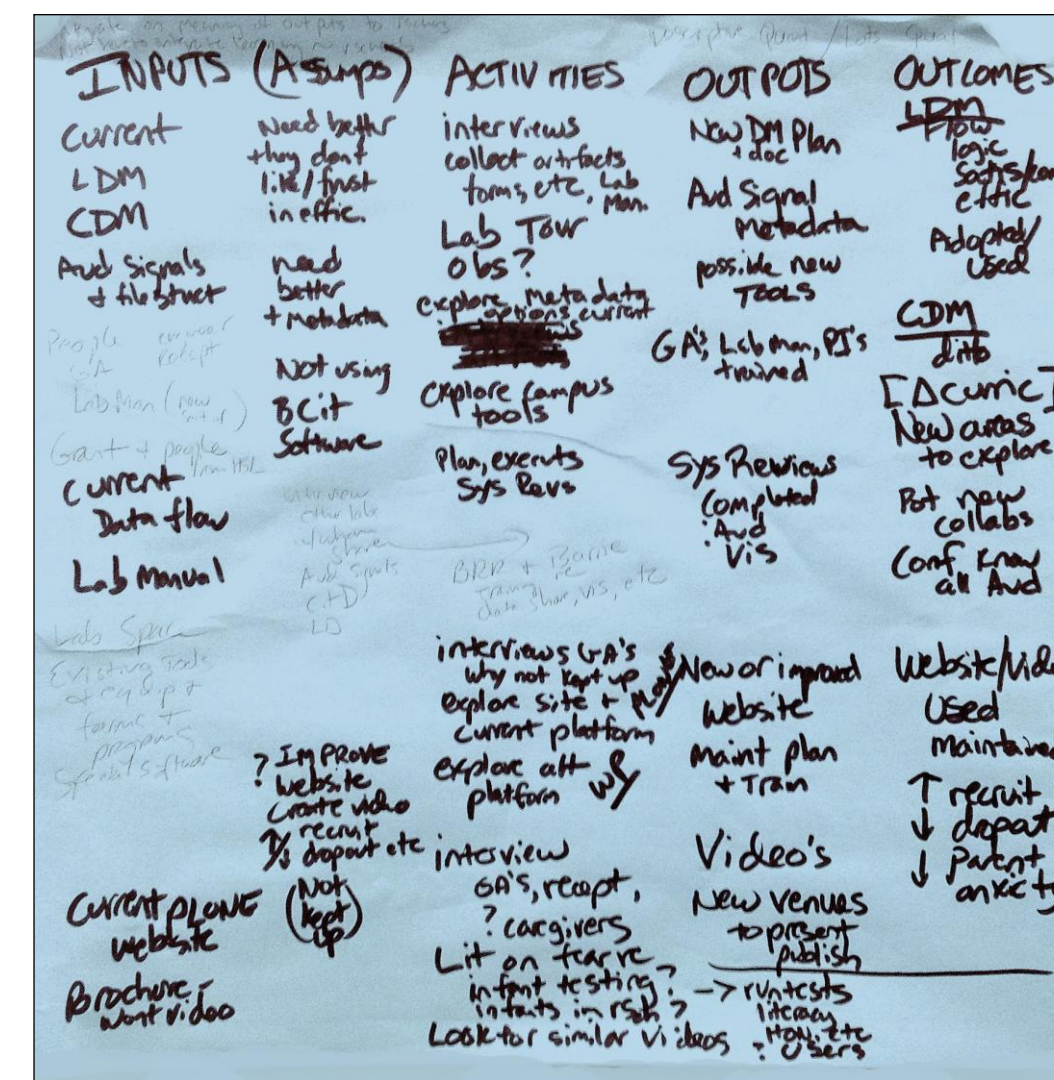
## Objective

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



Impacts		
	LAB	HSL
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Products of Specific Aims (intended and unexpected)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Systematic Review                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unexpected: learning by PI, new classes for students</li> </ul> </li> <li>(2) Citation Management                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unexpected: learning by PI, new classes for students</li> <li>Unexpected: more nuanced comparison chart &amp; new use cases for all users</li> </ul> </li> <li>Lab data management, incl. data flow in lab, file structure, file getting owners, audio file catalog &amp; metadata                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in directivity about how well doing in this area</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Outreach website, including video(s)</li> </ul> </li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better understanding of researchers               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stressors</li> <li>Anxieties</li> <li>Grant work flow</li> <li>Role of others in lab</li> <li>Unexpected: Propagation of techniques to learners</li> <li>Unexpected: Spinning off a new researcher</li> </ul> </li> <li>Better understanding of grant research cycle/processes</li> <li>Possible application to Research Lab               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More re-programming or teaching re data management</li> <li>Understanding of "holy grail" of lab and researchers from experiencing vs. hearing or reading about it.</li> <li>Issues re subject involvement and sharing across disciplines</li> <li>Unexpected: How "research interest with outside in the community"</li> <li>Unexpected: Learning about other types of more hidden data in lab environment (subject logistics)</li> <li>Unexpected: Learning about other types of more hidden data in lab environment (subject logistics)</li> <li>Learning about new tools (e.g., REDCap, CDMAT), issues, techniques</li> <li>Layover on top of regular work</li> <li>Kata stress &amp; anxiety of working within different culture (timeframe, environment, etc.) and wanting to please and not have too negative an impact</li> <li>Unexpected: At times, feeling discouraged and frustrated at pace of progress and not always being able to hit target exactly as planned</li> </ul> </li></ul>
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Time &amp; Interruption taken from lab work to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain &amp; show</li> <li>7 re expectation for evaluation</li> <li>7 re expectation for overall librarian (non-Lab) goals</li> <li>7 re expectation: Stress of participating in additional layer of research/evaluation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

## 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)



- 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.

## Acknowledgements

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