

## How can we use the new Faculty Communities Hub to improve teaching, learning, research, and outreach?

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9/17/2009

## What are disciplines?

- Thought domains made up of preferred problems, theories, and methods of investigation
- Quasi-stable, partially integrated, and semi-autonomous intellectual communities

Aram, J. D. (2004). "Concepts of interdisciplinarity: Configurations of knowledge and action." *Human Relations* 57: 379-412.



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## Objectives

- Tour Faculty Communities Hub
- Unpack "disciplinary" and "interdisciplinary"
- Share resources at PSU
- Answer questions about related grant opportunities
- Hear from interdisciplinary center reps.



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## What are disciplines?

- Professional societies of specialized scholars who self-identify, self-regulate, and self-reproduce
- Recognizable place holders in larger organizational or institutional structures

Turner, B. S. (2000). "What are disciplines? And how is interdisciplinarity different?" In Weingart and Stehr (eds.) *Practicing Interdisciplinarity*. London: U. of Toronto Press, 46-65.



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## What is the Faculty Communities Hub?

- Purpose
- Origins
- Location

<http://facultycommunities.psu.edu>



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## What, then, is "interdisciplinarity"?

- *Normative* arguments focus on filling gaps between or transcending disciplines to identify & solve problems
- *Phenomenological* arguments focus on boundary-crossings that occur naturally within disciplines

Chettiparamb, A. *Interdisciplinarity: A literature review*. Southampton, Hampshire, U.K.: Higher Education Academy, Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning Group, Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Areas Studies, School of Humanities, University of Southampton, 2007, pp. 13-15.



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### What is “interdisciplinary pedagogy”?

“Fostering in students a sense of self-authorship and a situated, partial and perspectival notion of knowledge that they can use to respond to complex questions, issues or problems.”

Haynes, C. (2002) Introduction: Laying a foundation for interdisciplinary teaching. In Haynes, C. (ed.) *Innovations in Interdisciplinary Teaching*. Washington: American Council on Education/Oryz Press, xi-xxii. (Quoted in Chettiparamb, p. 32.)



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### How can the Libraries' subject specialists help?

- Break down barriers between a discipline and its literature
- Understand the theory and method of a discipline
- Integrate subject-based information competencies into the curriculum



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### What are hallmarks of “interdisciplinary pedagogy”?

- Team teaching
- Writing across the curriculum
- Living and learning communities
- Study abroad programs
- Field- and community-based learning
- Undergraduate research
- Inquiry-based learning



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### What do these librarians do?

- Act as negotiators among multiple disciplinary vocabularies, literatures, methods, and paradigms
- Use library resources to provide background for unfamiliar areas



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### What's in it for students?

- Changing majors/responding to markets
- Preparing for careers in emerging fields
- Educational relevance and motivation
- Fosters creativity/inventiveness
- Transferable concepts and methods

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (1972) *Interdisciplinarity: Problems of teaching and research in universities*. Paris: OECD. (Quoted in Chettiparamb, 27-28.)



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### How can librarians help researchers with interdisciplinarity?

- Address issues of internationalization, emerging technologies, and scholarly communications
- Seek solutions to research inquiries
- Provide library instruction
- Develop collection that cuts across traditional disciplinary boundaries



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### How can librarians help researchers with interdisciplinarity?

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- Guide researchers through the Libraries' digital, print, and multimedia collections
- Speak for researchers' interests in creation and implementation of library policy
- Educate researchers about scholarly communications, copyright and licensing, institutional repositories, and other relevant issues



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### Examples of interdisciplinary initiatives at Penn State

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- The Learning Factory, an interdisciplinary design program within the College of Engineering
- Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences
- Interdisciplinary Business with Engineering Studies (IBE) major at Penn State Erie
- Training Interdisciplinary Educational Scientists (TIES) program
- Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment (PSIEE)
- Science, Technology and Society (STS) program



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### Some related Libraries resources

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- Subject libraries at University Park
- Subject specialists by discipline
- Research guides by subject
- Other services for faculty



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### Questions or comments?

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### 2009-10 & 2010-11 Teaching Grants

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- Interdisciplinary Projects
- Disciplinary Community Projects
- Individual Projects
  
- <http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/Grants/Support/>



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