Collaboration from a data provider’s perspective

Jenn Riley
Metadata Librarian
Indiana University
Collaboration provides education

- Learn from both service providers and other data providers
- Practical and theoretical lessons
- Selection of software
- Need to create “view” of metadata for shared environment
- Improvements can be iterative
- Community as resource
Collaboration promotes quality

- Demonstrates potential of how metadata can be used in a shared environment
- Allows data providers to see the results of their efforts
- Incentive for data provider to provide additional robustness
Collaboration encourages innovation

- “Two heads are better than one”
- Innovations from each side can move to the other
- Can negate the “chicken and egg” problem
- Shared metadata can serve as a testbed for local improvements
Collaboration sets priorities

- Optional parts of the OAI protocol to implement
- Adoption of new metadata formats
- Exposure of new materials
- Can de-prioritize things service providers normalize for their own purposes
Collaboration poses challenges

- Data providers must collaborate with multiple service providers
- We can’t customize metadata for each and every service provider
- Loss of control is scary
- Project-specific guidelines not enough
- Community-based standards and best practices needed
- No hacks!
The bottom line

Collaboration benefits everyone.