

GROUP ONE:

Collaboration in the Digital Government Program: How can different communities work together towards a common goal?

Participants: Sharon Dawes (chair), Jack Marshall, Lung Teng Hu, Jim Thompson, Joe Danek, Yigal Arens, Teresa Harrison, Sibel Adali, Bob Maslyn, Norman Dowe, Sal Stolfe, Vanghn Blankship, David Cheney, Alan MacEachren, Peter Bloniarz, Melvyn Ciment, H. Michael Chung.

DISCUSSION

Collaborations are usually difficult to achieve, for reasons ranging from social to technical. Despite the need for Government agency workers and researchers to communicate, transfer technical results and software, etc., there is currently no easy way of doing so: data security, firewalls, and limitations of collaboration software are but a few of the inhibiting factors. Interested parties discuss how to overcome the obstacles and achieve effective collaborations using new IT, e.g. with common workspaces. Our group consisted of three people in government, seven people in the research field, and two people from the private sector.

We discussed many aspects of collaboration including: researchers in the same discipline, researchers in different disciplines, and the third issue was research among government agencies. We felt that collaboration on tools and services needs to be done to address these issues. Research on collaboration was essential, and an ongoing community of interest was important. In future sessions we would want to address more case studies, more on focused discussions, as well as a faculty development session on building more research collaborations.