

The thesis explores the potential of facilitating and stimulating collaboration in library and information (LIS) through a specific scientific collaboration activity: creating, sharing and reusing data collection instruments, such as interview guides, questionnaires, and observation protocols. The four studies reported in the thesis can be read as a linear narrative, each study building on the previous and contributing to the following ones. Together the four studies describe the process exploring social and contextual aspects of LIS; developing requirements and designing a working prototype collaboratory; and evaluating how the prototype collaboratory was perceived by LIS professionals.

Overall, the results show that whereas the benefits of a LIS collaboratory reported by the study participants focused on the greater good for LIS, the challenges reported focused on the individuals' perspectives. Hence, a tension exists between supporting the greater good, and challenges for individuals concerning sharing and reusing data collection instruments in a LIS collaboratory. The thesis emphasizes the implications for the LIS discipline when new ways of working with data collection instruments would be introduced; the implications of addressing needs of a diverse target audience; and the implications for further design iterations of a LIS collaboratory, including rewarding contributions, and ensuring quality content in a collaboratory.

FACILITATING COLLABORATION

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Exploring a socio-technical approach
to the design of a collaboratory for
Library and Information Science

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