2CUL Collaborative Ethnographic Assessment of Humanities Doctoral Students

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The Study

- Ethnographic Research
- Graduate Students in the Humanities
- Motivation
- Results
  - Marketing of services
  - Building community

Image credit: https://www1.columbia.edu/sec/cu/publications/images/
Collaborative Process

- Project Organization
  - Teams structure and project management

- Process
  - IRB, training, instruments; interviewing, transcription, coding, analysis

- Tools

- Successes and Challenges

- Takeaways
## Project Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Columbia</th>
<th>Cornell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Co-PI</td>
<td>Co-PI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>Project Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 specialist librarians</td>
<td>2 reference librarians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 access services staff</td>
<td>1 access services staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 research assistant</td>
<td>1 admin assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Many transcriptionists</td>
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</tbody>
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Institutional Review Board

- Independent IRB submission
- Exemption
Training

- Ethnographic methods
- Team building

Image credit: https://www1.columbia.edu/sec/cu/publications/images/
Instruments & Interviewing

- **Instruments**
  - Focus groups
  - Individual interviews: pre- and post- qualifying exams
  - Written questionnaires

- **Interview process**

Image credit: http://www.clevelandmemory.org/gcem/iep.html
Transcription

- On-site
- Equipment
- Time

Image credit: http://www.startstop.com
Coding & Analysis

- **Coding**
  - Sub-team
  - Code book
  - Master Index

- **Analysis**
  - Cross-institution pairs
Tools

Team
• Video conferencing
• Wiki
• Phone
• Email

Study
• Digital recorders
• Transcription software
• MS Word – indexing & coding

Successes

- Strong project managers
- Clear, flexible, and constant communication
- Flexible, committed team members
- Collaboration via distance worked better than expected
Challenges

• Substantial time commitment for team members

• Time management is crucial

• More time to analyze data and discuss results

• Transcription took much more time than anticipated
Takeaways

- Increased interest in assessment and data-driven decision making among staff
- Positive vehicle for staff and organizational development
- Deeper engagement with local academic leadership
- Active, visible contributors in confronting and solving university-level problems
Thank you.

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