Knowledge Translation Across RERC Activities

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Presentation Outline

• KT- What is it and why does it matter?

• What is currently being done by RERC’s?

• What else can be done?
NIDRR’s Goal: Impacts
Outcomes
How do we get there?

Outputs

Stakeholders

Outcomes

Impacts

KT

KB

The State University of New York

CAT

NIDRR

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH
What is KT?

All of NIDRR’s centers and projects will carry out KT.

- KT is a process of ensuring that new knowledge and products gained through research and development will ultimately be used to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and further their participation in society. (2010-2014 proposed LRP)
What is KT?

- KT takes place in a complex system
- Interactions vary in intensity, complexity and level of engagement
- Focus on the needs of the knowledge users

Key Components:
- Involve relevant stakeholders in design and conduct
- Assess and disseminate
- Translating findings into usable information
KT versus KDU?

• KDU
  – End of grant activity
  – Linear, mechanical process of information transfer
  – Focus on “pushing” knowledge out into use

• KT
  – Integrated activity
  – Interactive, nonlinear process
    • Dependent on the beliefs, values, circumstances, and needs of intended users
  – Needs and anticipated barriers shape research, development, and dissemination activities
Relationships
What is Currently Being Done?
Target Audiences

- Researchers
- Practitioners/Clinicians
- Ppl with Disab. or Family
- Service Providers

[Bar chart showing the percentage of each target audience]
Dissemination and Research Utilization Strategies

• Present papers or lectures (95.5%)

• Scholarly articles (91.9%)

• Annual/final reports (74.8%)

• Trainings (71.7%)

• Websites/pages (68.5%)
Measuring Impact

- Participant counts (72.2%)
- Material requests/distributions (56.7%/52.6%)
- Citation searches (51.5%)
- Participant surveys (40.2%)
- Interviews (24.7%)
Barriers to Reaching Target Audience

• Limited funding
• Limited planning time

• Comments
  – Saw KT as an end of grant activity
  – “…dissemination and/or utilization activities would take away from this project’s primary work and focus.”
What Else Can Be Done?
Three Different Methods yield Knowledge Outputs in 3 Different States

Scientific Research Method ► *Conceptual Discovery*

Engineering Development Method ► *Prototype Invention*

Industrial Production Method ► *Commercial Product*
### Need to Knowledge (NtK) Model for Technological Innovations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phases</th>
<th>Stages and Gates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discovery (Research)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 1: Define Problem &amp; Solution</td>
<td>![Thumbs Up] ![Thumbs Down] ![Question Mark]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 2: Scoping</td>
<td>![Thumbs Down] ![Question Mark]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 3: Conduct Research and Generate Discoveries → Discovery Output!</td>
<td>![Thumbs Up] ![Thumbs Down] ![Question Mark]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communicate Discovery State Knowledge</strong></td>
<td>![Thumbs Up] ![Thumbs Down] ![Question Mark]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 4: Build Business Case and Plan for Development</td>
<td>![Thumbs Down] ![Question Mark]</td>
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<td>Stage 5: Implement Development Plan</td>
<td>![Thumbs Down] ![Question Mark]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 6: Testing and Validation → Invention Output!</td>
<td>![Thumbs Up] ![Thumbs Down] ![Question Mark]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communicate Invention State Knowledge</strong></td>
<td>![Thumbs Up] ![Thumbs Down] ![Question Mark]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 7: Plan and Prepare for Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 8: Launch Device or Service → Innovation Output!</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communicate Innovation State Knowledge</strong></td>
<td>![Thumbs Up] ![Thumbs Down] ![Question Mark]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 9: Life-Cycle Review / Terminate?</td>
<td>![Thumbs Down] ![Question Mark]</td>
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Knowledge Communication – 3 Strategies for 3 States
KT for Discovery Outputs

Discovery Outputs

Depending on barriers identified, select and implement interventions (e.g. - broadly disseminate tool info, provide multiple access points.)

Monitor use of the discovery. (e.g. web site hits, citations, phone and e-mail inquiries, survey user groups.)

Assess barriers to use of the discovery by each knowledge user group. Survey groups to see why they may not use the discovery.

Evaluate outcomes - May have to develop new outcome measures.

Use need and valuability assessments to demonstrate how the discovery will benefit each separate knowledge user group. Develop tools to help each group apply/use the discovery.

Sustain use of the discovery. Use feedback to modify tools and interventions as needed.

Use initial need assessment, valuability assessments and value proposition to match the discovery to the knowledge gap.
Opportunities for KT

• 1.1 Assess needs with input from stakeholders.
• 2.2 Perform preliminary valuability assessments with input from stakeholders.
• 3.1 Identify expertise needs and assemble transdisciplinary research team.
• 4.6 Initiate key co-development practices.
• 6.3 Test refined beta prototype with consumers in field.
## Practical Tool

**TT Planning Template**

[http://kt4tt.buffalo.edu/knowledgebase](http://kt4tt.buffalo.edu/knowledgebase)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stages and Gates</th>
<th>Steps</th>
<th>Plans/Progress</th>
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</table>
| **Stage 1: Define Problem and Solution** | 1.1. Opportunity for KT: Assess needs for device or service with input from relevant stakeholders from the six knowledge user (KU) groups.  
1.2. Identify a problem (need). Identify audience for solution. Identify context for both.  
1.3. Propose plausible solution (goal) to problem in the form of a device or service.  
1.4. Determine scope of project (role): output as conceptual discovery, prototype invention or device/service innovation?  
1.5. Consider path to market. |   |
| **Gate 1: Idea Screen. PI decides to either terminate or move forward with project to develop solution to problem.** |   |   |
| **Stage 2: Scoping (Initial screen to validate innovativeness and value to target markets)** | 2.1. Define innovation opportunity.  
2.2. Opportunity for KT: expanding on previously identified needs, perform preliminary viability assessments (business, market and technical) on device/service with input from stakeholders in the six KU groups.  
2.3. Identify potential barriers. |   |
| **Gate 2: Second Screen. PI must decide if envisioned project output and eventual device/service outcomes are still considered innovative in the light of results from assessments. PI decides if generation of new knowledge is required. If no, PI decides if project should move directly to invention phase or terminate. If yes, should they pursue external funding to conduct remainder of discovery phase?** |   |   |
| **Stage 3: Conduct Research and Generate Research-Based Findings (Create/find relevant knowledge)** | 3.1. Opportunity for KT: Identify expertise needs and assemble interdisciplinary research team (i.e. methodologist, statistician, etc.)  
3.2. Identify specific knowledge gaps - purpose of research phase.  
3.3. Select appropriate research design and develop |   |
Practical Tool
KT Planning Template

Available at: http://www.melaniebarwick.com/training.php

• Consider:
  – Research partners
  – Level of partner engagement
  – KT expertise on team
  – Messages
  – Audiences
  – KT goals
  – KT methods & processes
  – Intended impact & evaluation
  – Role of partners
  – Resources & budget → Estimated costs
  – Implementation Plan
Resources

• NCDDR KT Library
  – http://www.ncddr.org/ktinfocenter/

• KT Training Programs
  – Scientist KT Training
  – Knowledge Translation Professional Certificate
Key Take Aways

• Involve Knowledge Users:
  – Identifying research topics, questions and hypotheses
  – Designing and implementing study methods
• Pay attention to context
• Tailor dissemination strategies
  – Critical information, formats and channels
• Use planning tools
Questions
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This is a presentation of the Center on Knowledge Translation for Technology Transfer, which is funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, U.S. Department of Education, under grant #H133A080050.

The opinions contained in this presentation are those of the grantee and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Education.