

Brief Bio and (PR)²: Problems & Pitches – Rants & Raves by *Israel Lederhendler*

Self Introduction



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I was trained in comparative psychology and was active in behavioral neurobiology research for many years before moving into research administration at the National Institutes of Health. I feel I achieved some respect for science management within the extramural research community which has honored me with a number of awards. As a program official at the National Institute of Mental Health I used conferences and workshops to foster communications and collaborations between NIH Institutes and Centers and with external organizations. My activities as a scientist and administrator has led me to view knowledge management together with other data mining and reporting tools to be at the core of analytic activities that NIH will need to accurately reflect its scientific accomplishments and manage its many challenges. I have a history of interest and participation in merging scientific portfolio analysis with electronic tools for data integration and analysis. Recently, as interim project manager of the Electronic Research Administration, Director of the Office of Research Information Services, and finally as Director of the Division of Information Services, I have tried to promote the value of such tools for research program management and decision support.

- National NIH Symposium, February 6, 2006. *"Knowledge in Service to Health: Leveraging Knowledge for Modern Science Management"*
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- Lederhendler, I. and Schulkin, J. Behavioral Neuroscience: Challenges for the Era of Molecular Biology. *Trends In Neuroscience*, 23:451-454, 2000.
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General Questions

1) What is (are) your main interest(s) in attending the workshop?

Agency scientific management staff have an as yet unrealized and unique role to play in facilitating research and research discovery. They occupy a natural and valuable position as “generalists” which can heighten the potential for significant discovery if they engage in activities that broaden knowledge integration and interdisciplinary links. Informatics-savvy managers can provide value to programmatic areas for example, through more effective access to people and concepts across self-defined disciplinary silos.

2) What information/knowledge management expertise do you have?

- Co-chair of the Federal Knowledge Management Working Group.
- Organized several KM-related symposia and workshops.
- Supervision of data analysts within the NIH Office of the Director.
- Conceptual information architecture.

3) What is the most insightful visualization of static or dynamic phenomena you know?

Carte Figurative des pertes successives en homes de l'Armée Française dans la campagne de Russie 1812-1813. By Charles Joseph Minard. 1869

4) What would you like to learn / achieve at the workshop?

We have recently launched a beta site intended to provide information about NIH research and support for the evaluation of NIH programs. The user base is very broad in the level of its sophistication and the information, which is complex, needs to be made accessible. Visualization concepts are critical, but Federal websites are constrained by requirements for privacy, balance, security, and universal access. I would like to learn how to sustain creativity and innovation in this environment.