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Round-Table Workshop Proposal: “I Schools in the Greater Community”

Information Schools have much to offer the greater university community. The organization, management, and application of information are core problems for many of a university’s most central endeavors. Because of this, I School perspectives and inputs can enhance university administration and management, expand the reach and value of scholarly communications, and open new horizons for far more accessible and effective instruction. Despite this promise, there are several important challenges that must be faced before we realize the potential of fostering more significant and effective partnerships across different parts of the university community.

Our roundtable discussion will explore strategies that can facilitate more effective university-wide (and beyond) partnerships. Workshop participants will share ideas about now to foster collaborations between I Schools and other campus groups to better address challenges and opportunities faced across the scholarly community. Among the topics to be explored will be:

1. Marketing I Schools and I School perspectives
2. Prioritizing projects, and aligning interests to form collaborations
3. Communicating across disciplinary divides
4. Identifying cross-cutting solutions that may work in several different application areas

Part of this discussion will draw from experiences gained through an experimental program now underway at the UC Berkeley School of Information. The Information and Service Design (ISD) program, launched in January of 2007, is part of the university-wide initiative in Service Science, Management & Engineering and emphasizes the unique people and perspectives of the UC Berkeley School of Information. The ISD Program explores increasingly global and interconnected developments in business, law, computing, communications, research, and education.

This program runs an “Information Systems Clinic” which is open to students from engineering, computer science, business and other disciplines. Students benefit from this program by having numerous opportunities to work with faculty on service-related research, as well as hands-on design and implementation projects with both on-campus and off-campus organizations.
This Clinic helps facilitate and coordinate projects with units across the UC Berkeley Campus. It now includes a portfolio of some five related projects intended to enhance open access, usability, and impact of essential scholarly resources. These projects are developed in collaboration with UC Berkeley Libraries, museums, “cyberinfrastructure” (scientific communications) initiatives, as well as leading nonprofit organizations including the Internet Archive and Creative Commons.