Welcome to the summer 2013 issue of momentUM. This month we hear from Felix Kabo about the exciting social science based research he and his group are conducting at NCRC. MLibrary@NCRC is a valuable research resource and we hope more NCRC community members will use it going forward. I hope you enjoy the wonderful summer days.

David Canter, Executive Director, NCRC

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Social Science Based Research at NCRC: 
an interview with Felix Kabo

1. **Please tell us why NCRC is interesting to your research which is in the social sciences.**

NCRC is a great opportunity to understand the effects of spatial networks on research collaborations. Over a year ago, we started working with pilot data from the BSRB and the Cancer Center. At that time, with fewer people at NCRC, we did not have a robust enough data set. However, over the last year, a number of groups have moved to NCRC, including ones which were not previously co-located before. In fact, we could make the argument that some of the groups would not exist but for NCRC. Now with the availability of more research groups and data that we can begin to collect, we plan to study the collaboration process at NCRC. Often when you look at collaboration it is difficult to disentangle the effects of space from the effects of the organizational hierarchy and other effects such as social networks, and relationships.

At NCRC there are groups such as the IHPI which consists of smaller groups of researchers but the institute had not existed before as a unit. For us it was interesting to think of their move to NCRC as “disruptive,” but in a good way. It can shake the existing patterns of relationships and once things settle, we can actually start to see the effects of moving. If we look at where collaborations and relationship were at time zero which is right before or right around when people move and then look at it again in the future - a couple years down the road, 5 years down the road, 10 years down the road, etc., we can start to see the effects of moving to NCRC. And because this is such a unique opportunity, we are very excited about NCRC.
One of the stated goals of NCRC is to encourage collaborations across boundaries, which is actually very hard to do, although U-M is better than most of its peers when it comes to creating the environment and frameworks for this. But it is still a daunting task. NCRC can function as an incubator or as a lab for these types of cross-disciplinary collaborations. Usually, in conventional set-ups, people are separated by organizational boundaries, buildings, etc. But at NCRC we can have situations where, for example, in building 20W, on a single floor there is a lab where on the one end is cancer or oncology research but the other end is basic chemistry research, with dentistry, chemical engineering and other fields in between. These are the types of co-locations that we are unlikely to find on any other part of campus. NCRC is creating opportunities for these kinds of interactions, making it more likely that people will form relationships and collaborations. And then out of these collaborations we are likely to see some qualitative or quantitative change in innovations.

2. **Given the opportunity to study co-located research groups and diverse disciplines together at NCRC, how exactly are you studying them and what results do you hope to find?**

At this time, we are actively seeking funding to study NCRC in greater depth. However our pilot study has implications for the NCRC study. The pilot was interesting - we looked at administrative data for the Medical School going back to 2000. From that we pulled subsets of people who moved to the BSRB in 2006. Additionally, we included people who were in the Cancer Center between 2000 and 2011. These two populations of faculty researchers were more similar, yet quite different from the rest of the Medical School population, making it interesting to study the impact of space on their research, including moves to new locations that happened for both these groups.

This means that we can start to see what happened to collaborations before and after they moved, including developing new methods of collaboration. Typically, people study research in terms of number of patents developed, publications, etc., which are good metrics but the problem is that they take a while to mature. For example, if you see a publication that is coming out this year, it has probably been in gestation for three years. As a result, we may miss...
three years’ worth of work done prior to the publication. We looked at IRB applications and grant proposals -- whether successful or not -- and created a composite index of collaboration. Then using this index, we were able to study the effects of space. We also created a new measure of proximity called zone overlap, where we defined the zones as the spaces that individuals effectively use, occupy or visit in the course of a regular working day, and the paths that connect them, hence path overlap.

What we found was to the extent that people's paths overlap, it is not only predictive of whether they enter into a collaboration relationship, but it also predicts whether or not within a 3 year window their grant proposals get funded. The results were significant. Path overlap was significant in both the buildings we studied, so it suggests that this new measure is robust to changes in how the building is configured. This has direct implications for NCRC.

Our pilot study provides us with a great proof of concept for the NCRC project, especially since we have developed two new measures relating to collaboration and the effects of space.

**MLibrary@NCRC: Information Hub Services**

MLibrary@NCRC, located on the ground level of Building 18, integrates a wide breadth of library and information services to meet the complex information needs of NCRC. According to the Jean Song, the Taubman Health Sciences Library’s Research and Informatics Coordinator, the library “serves as a connector to quality information tools, people, and ideas across disciplines, throughout the campus and beyond. We are often the first stop for people’s information needs because if we don’t have the answer ourselves—we help them find it.” Below is a sampling of the types of projects in which MLibrary@NCRC librarians are engaged.

**Information seeking consultations:** Librarians help answer the question: how do I get started with my research? Librarian Judy Smith provides consultations and works with information seekers at all points during the search process. She works with researchers spanning a variety of disciplines (i.e., Center for Bioethics and Social Sciences in Medicine, Business Development) to provide ideas about search terms, database selection, and overall strategies.

**Expert searching and research management:** Librarian Marisa Conte provides research consultations for labs or investigators engaged in complex literature searches, including systematic reviews, searches for protocols and methodologies, or alternatives searches for laboratory animal use. She also partners with researchers conducting guidelines searches or systematic reviews. Co-location at the NCRC has enabled a closer collaboration with clinical and translational researchers, including the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars.
program and the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research. In addition to supporting literature searching, Marisa also provides consultations or instruction in citation management tools, including EndNote, Papers and web-based knowledge management platforms.

**Education and training:** In addition to individual consultations, the librarians hold larger training sessions on tools and resources. Bioinformationist Marci Brandenburg teaches on informatics tools such as Cytoscape, an open source network visualization application, as well as a workshop to maximize the use of Google.

**Connections and collaborations:** Many people are interested in identifying potential partners and collaborators to expand their research and teaching capabilities. Librarians Judy Smith and Jean Song offer instruction on the use of SciVal Experts, a faculty expertise tool that allows for identification of collaborators on campus. They are currently working with the Institute for Health Care Policy and Innovation leaders on utilizing SciVal information and other strategies to understand the impact of individuals’ research. In addition, MLibrary@NCRC librarians have in depth knowledge about existing campus resources and can refer individuals to units across campus that offer assistance with specialized services such as statistical analysis, 3D printing, publishing, copyright and more.

**Convenient Accessibility:** The MLibrary@NCRC offers those housed at NCRC walk-in access for U-M Library resources as licenses permit. This access has been important to those in the Venture Accelerator. Nicky Slawny of 3D Biomatrix notes that: “it is crucial that we keep up with the newest biotechnology research advances ... so having access to the University of Michigan library has been and will be critical to our development.”
Work with us
Located in Building 18, G218, MLibrary@NCRC is staffed Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm and is open for general use 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for those housed at NCRC. Members of the public are welcome to use the library during staffed hours. Librarians can be reached at (734) 647-9937 or mlibrary-ncrc@umich.edu.

NCRC Metrics: Did You Know?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Blueberry Muffins</th>
<th>Taco Tuesday</th>
<th>Chicken Tortilla</th>
<th>Pulled Pork sandwich</th>
<th>Chocolate Chunk</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 Selling baked breakfast good</td>
<td>Busiest day of the week</td>
<td>Sell out soup</td>
<td>Most asked about daily special</td>
<td>Favorite cookie that sells out daily</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flavors sells about 20 sides of fruit cups a day</td>
<td>The two most popular paninis are The Morris and the Italian</td>
<td>Diet Coke is the favorite amongst fountain drinks</td>
<td>Angela Kappas is the new head of Flavors Breakfast</td>
<td>The breakfast sandwich is the best selling hot breakfast item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Do not forget these!**

**What's New at Flavors?**

- Art displayed throughout Flavors
- Flavors Coffee Café now has punch cards
- Art
- Punch Cards
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Occupants</th>
<th>Space Usage</th>
<th>Key Facts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Pat Holden</strong></td>
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<td>Fax: 734-764-9017</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:holdenp@umich.edu">holdenp@umich.edu</a></td>
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