Breakout session on
"National Science Forecasts—Markets, Utility and Formats"

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What Markets Exist?

• Special interest groups
• Greater industry
• Those looking for the latest and best information on … (ex. climate change)
• Classroom teachers – through college level
• Interested laypeople
• Patients
• Children
• “Evan” (bridge from ivory tower to interested laypeople)
• Proposal/funding reviewers
• Researchers
• Science policy makers
What Utility Might “Science Forecasts” Have?

- Researchers: Centralize information – make new connections
- Give access to data that would otherwise not have access to
- Reviewers: Reveal relevant information to potential research proposals
- Reviewers: utilize as “calculators” that can help reviewers do a better job
- Connect funding to publications
- Scientists: strengthen/inform engagement with research
- “Evan”: inform/instigate civic purposes, reaching the interested layperson, translating from the academic language to accessible stories
- Influence/inform science policy makers
- Reveal/expose who are the major players (researchers and reviewers), what are the areas that are ripe for research, create connections between different disciplines
- Funders: identify who is funding what they’re funding, enable a pooling of resources to target/identify a combination of researchers and reviewers to create successful/innovative results
What “Science Forecasts” Formats are Best?

- Different channels
- Information delivered to you, individualized and customized
- Plug-in-play algorithms
Who Might Serve “Science Forecasts” and Why?

• Funding agencies (improving review processes)
• Industry (competitive analysis and lobbying)
• Venture groups (portfolio analysis (more effective use of money, not funding stuff that’s already proven ineffective), dissemination of information)
Challenges & Opportunities

• Scientific researchers have a culture of privacy and individual ownership – the reward system in academia needs to change
• Need to show that the benefits of shared systems outweigh the concerns
Promising Next Steps

• Kyle should send the top 5 funded items to Evan, to be tracked by SEED
• Overlay Kyle’s funding data with Johan’s publishing data
• Map the cycles of what comes first – funding or media hype
• Could investigate aggregate search data and consider ways it could inform funding
• Utilize news coverage/information and consider ways it could inform funding