Self Introduction

Brian S. Butler is an Associate Professor of Business Administration in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and Associate Professor of Clinical and Translational Research in the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at the University of Pittsburgh. His research interests and prior work include studies of online communities, social computing, and mass-collaboration; power, politics and IT; healthcare and IS; knowledge management and community informatics. Dr. Butler’s work has appeared in ISR, MISQ, Organization Science, JMIS, JCMC, CAIS, Journal of Biomedical Informatics, Journal of Medical Internet Research, and the Proceedings of CHI, CSCW and ASIS&T. His work with virtual organizations and social networking has been supported by NSF, NIH, and Microsoft. Current projects include studies of policy formation and application in Wikipedia, technology use in local food systems, and the design of social networking systems for supporting health science research and healthcare provision.

Relevant Publications

General Questions

1) What is (are) your main interest(s) in attending the workshop?
The get a better understanding of how the research networking community is thinking about the strengths, weaknesses, and potential of VIVO and other research networking platforms.

2) What three features or functions of researcher networking (i.e., tools and services related to assisting researchers with finding people, resources, data, projects, and scholarly works) are most critical to adoption?
Adoption by information providers (i.e. profiled individuals)
  - Control of self-presentation
  - Integration in team and information management practices
  - Lightweight awareness maintenance

Adoption by information seekers
  - Effective search (whatever that means)
  - Lightweight awareness support

(Research networking systems are two sided systems – even if sometimes the role are played by the same people)

3) What three features of researcher networking are most critical to success after adoption, or sustainability?
Appropriate control of self presentation
Lightweight awareness support (i.e. keeping up with activity)
Integration (or ability to integrate with) information and collaborative work practices

(automatic extraction of profile information is useful as far as it goes – but it doesn’t go very far)

4) Are you aware of especially innovative approaches to any of these features or functions?
http://www.mendeley.com/ is a interesting example of how these things might be accomplished..

5) What features of researcher networking are most important to you as a researcher, for your own use?
Awareness and work support. Search is secondary.

6) Are you or your group working on any of these features?
Yes
7) What would you like to learn / achieve at the workshop?
   Answered in #1