



Levels of Collaboration

Cooperation can be characterized as being nice to each other.

Example: sharing materials or supplies between two organizations

- Informal, short-term relationship
- Authority retained by each organization
- Not specifically organized (little to no planning, no division of roles)
- Resources are kept separate
- Virtually no risk

Coordination involves checking with other people before you do an activity.

Example: sharing office space, planning a community festival

- Somewhat formal relationship, longer-term interaction
- Authority retained by each organization
- Organized around a specific effort or event (some planning and division of roles)
- Resources are coordinated
- Increased risk

Collaboration allows us to accomplish together what we could not accomplish alone.

Example: supporting each other's missions and providing services together

- Mutually beneficial, well-defined relationship
- Shared authority and leadership
- Separate organizations with a joint commitment to a common goal
- Partners pool their resources and share work product
- Highest level of risk (Greatest potential for reward!)