

Updated Call for Chapters
Handbook of Research on Electronic Collaboration and Organizational Synergy
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Introduction

The *Handbook of Research on Electronic Collaboration and Organizational Synergy* will explore structure, organization, technology tools and leadership practices that characterize successful collaboration in and across the fields of education, public policy, and business. The word *collaborate* has its origins in the Latin word *collaborare*, "to work together" (OED, 2005). Contemporary theorists and researchers consider collaboration to be a situation in which stakeholders come together to act or decide on issues of mutual interest using shared rules, norms, and structures.

The working definition for this book is: *collaboration is an interactive process that engages two or more participants who work together to achieve outcomes they could not accomplish independently*. Since participants typically work in an organizational context, other enabling or obstructing factors may exist. Those are explored through the study of *organizational synergy*, which is defined for this book as: *an open, integrated process (operational, procedural and cultural) that fosters collaboration and encourages participants to expand connections beyond typical boundaries and achieve innovative outcomes*.

In this book we highlight the electronic aspects, applications and issues surrounding collaboration and organizational synergy. The focus will be on the strategic, cross-cultural, team and technical skills required to collaborate and achieve organizational synergy in the age of the Internet and a digitally connected 21st century global society.

Overall Objective of the Book

The mission is to present a comprehensive collection of empirical work that examines collaborative techniques and strategies for inter-organizational and intra-organizational collaboration across disciplines and sectors. Diverse contributions to the handbook will allow readers to understand new theoretical and practical approaches emerging from current research and identify ways to adapt or transfer them across sectors. It is hoped that this *Handbook of Research on Electronic Collaboration and Organizational Synergy* will generate new dialogue, study and collaborative practices.

The handbook will contain three sections on collaboration in Education, Government and Public Policy, and Business. The handbook will provide a thought-provoking exploration of questions related to leadership, organization and technology processes and practices. Guiding questions include:

- ◆ *Leadership*—what attitudes and competencies do leaders need to guide, support or facilitate collaborative efforts?
- ◆ *Organization*—how do collaborative partners determine roles, allocate tasks, handle conflict and combine perspectives to create unique outcomes? What types, levels and styles of collaboration are used and how are they applied in various situations?
- ◆ *Technology*—how can communications technologies be used effectively to enhance collaborative interactions? What models of successful collaboration in the Information Age use online and blended approaches? What factors are unique or the same in face to face versus electronic collaboration?

Chapter Topics

Each section will include chapters that explore collaboration at inter-organizational and intra-organizational levels. We understand that some topics may cross section boundaries and organizational scales. In such cases, indicating multiple categories is appropriate.

The first call for chapters for the [The Handbook of Research on Electronic Collaboration and Organizational Synergy](http://www.vision2lead.com/html/esynergy.html) (<http://www.vision2lead.com/html/esynergy.html>) formally closed April 30, 2007. We have been extremely pleased with both the quantity and quality of the submissions. Please see the list of invited authors and chapter topics: <http://www.vision2lead.com/html/esynergy2.html>.

At this time we are requesting additional proposals targeting specified areas in order to ensure a comprehensive and balanced view of collaboration in education, business, social sector organizations and government. We are particularly interested in contributions that consider electronic collaboration *within* a governmental or social sector organization, including non-profit or Non-Governmental Organizations. Topics could include collaborative efforts of teams or cross-functional groups, or collaborative efforts between international/national organizations and their local affiliates. We are also interested in interdisciplinary collaboration *within* educational institutions or instructional practices *within* the classroom.

If your proposal falls outside of these categories but within the scope of the original call for chapters and you wish to submit for consideration, we still welcome your proposal as a competitive entry in categories with a significant number of submissions. This list located at <http://www.vision2lead.com/html/esynergy2.html> will be updated to reflect invited chapters.

Target Audience

- ◆ Instructors at colleges and universities, and undergraduate and graduate students;
- ◆ Curriculum designers or administrators in leadership or in inter- or cross-disciplinary programs;
- ◆ Researchers working in a wide variety of areas including leadership development, virtual organizations, partnerships and teamwork, or e-learning.
- ◆ Professionals working in the area of leadership development and management of traditional and virtual alliances.
- ◆ Policymakers and government executives.

Submission Procedure

Researchers and practitioners interested in submitting chapters (5,000-7,500 words) are invited to submit a 1 to 2 page manuscript proposal clearly explaining the intention and research basis of the proposed chapter. Please submit a Word or PDF document to synergy@vision2lead.com. Authors of accepted proposals will be notified about the status of their proposals.

Upon acceptance of your proposal, you will have until **September 15, 2007**, to prepare your chapter of 5,000-7,500 words and 7-10 related terms and their appropriate definitions. Guidelines for preparing your paper and terms and definitions will be sent to you upon acceptance of your proposal. *All submitted chapters will be reviewed by at least three reviewers on a double-blind review basis.* Authors of accepted chapters will then have a further opportunity to refine their work, based upon the comments of the reviewers and the editor. Information Science Reference, (an imprint of IGI Publishing), has tentatively scheduled publication of print and electronic editions of the book in 2008.

About the Editors

Janet Salmons, Ph.D. and Lynn Wilson, Ph.D.

The editors bring a wealth of scholarly and practical experience with inter-organizational and intra-organizational collaborations in the fields covered in the handbook.

Janet has designed, planned and carried out face-to-face and online projects that involved collaborative efforts with higher and graduate education, K-12 education, arts and nonprofit organizations, businesses large and small, and governmental agencies. She operates a consulting practice, Vision2Lead, Inc., that offers services over the Internet and has eight years experience as a professor at Capella University's School of Business Technology, where she teaches courses related to 21c. leadership. Research areas are collaborative e-learning and leadership development.

Lynn has assisted public and private organizations as a policy advisor and analyst, organizational strategist, and conflict management specialist for more than 20 years. She provides professional research and partnership strategies related to environmental and economic development issues through her consulting practice, and serves as legislative liaison for several private/public collaborative efforts. She has held directorships with state and federal programs, chambers of commerce, trade associations, higher education policy programs, and regional and international science and intergovernmental conferences. Lynn is currently the Executive Director of SeaTrust Institute, a nonprofit community collaborative in Washington State. Her research specialization is public policy with a focus on environmental issues, ocean policy, and the interface between science and policy.