

Knowledge Translation: the What, the Why, and the How

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NIDILRR's Mission

- To **generate new knowledge** and to **promote its effective use** to improve the abilities of individuals with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community and to expand society's capacity to provide full opportunities and accommodations for its citizens with disabilities

What is Knowledge Translation?

- Knowledge translation is a process of ensuring that new knowledge and products gained through research and development **will ultimately be used** to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and further their participation in society
- Knowledge translation is built upon and sustained by **ongoing interactions, partnerships, and collaborations among various stakeholders**, including researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, persons with disabilities, and others, in the production and use of such knowledge and product

What is Included the KT Process?

- Knowledge creation
 - Original knowledge
 - Synthesized knowledge
- Knowledge Dissemination
- Knowledge use or implementation
- Evaluation of outcomes/impact

Keep in Mind..

- KT is not an event, but a process with many components
- KT encompasses all steps between the creation of new knowledge and its application to yield beneficial outcomes for society
- All components must be taken into consideration in order to optimally achieve the end result of desirable outcomes/impact

Keep in Mind..

- KT is underpinned by effective exchanges between researchers who create new knowledge and knowledge users/stakeholders
- There needs to be a philosophical change of how research is viewed, as well as practical changes to implement this alternate way of thinking in all components
- To ensure the best possible outcomes, it is advantageous to use a systematic approach rather than a piecemeal approach

Knowledge Translation Characteristics

- Interactive
- Multi-directional communication
- Interdisciplinary
- Multiple activities
- Non-linear process
- User and Context specific
- Outcome/Impact-oriented

Why KT?

- Increased relevance of knowledge produced
- Increased likelihood that knowledge can/will be used
- Increased public benefit
- Optimal return on research and development investment using public funds

Examples of KT Strategies

- Solicit stakeholders' input to determine the importance and relevance of research topics/questions/hypotheses
- Incorporate stakeholders' input in designing the study's methods such as recruitment, intervention, and outcomes
- Conduct research in a context that best resembles real-life context where the knowledge will apply

Examples of KT Strategies

- Derive dissemination strategies based on the needs of specific user groups
 - Needs
 - Communication channel
 - Format
- Derive appropriate strategies to facilitate knowledge implementation
 - Understand barriers and facilitators in the implementation contexts
 - Provide access to needed support for implementation

NIDILRR's KT Vision

- NIDILRR will produce high quality and highly usable knowledge and products that are used by its stakeholders to inform their decision-making to improve conduct, practice, policy, and system capacity that would lead to improving the lives of persons with disabilities and increase their full participation in society.

NIDILRR's Strategies to Support KT

- Direct KT support - Fund KT Centers that perform various functions related to KT
 - *Conduct research activities* to further understand factors influencing the KT process in disability and rehabilitation
 - *Conduct research syntheses* in areas where there is sufficient body of knowledge and value to stakeholders
 - *Contribute to the development of standards and infrastructure* of KT in Disability and Rehabilitation
 - *Produce informational products and promote their use* to improve the lives of persons with disabilities
 - *Promote capacity building* in KT for NIDILRR grantees
 - *Provide technical assistance* on KT to NIDILRR grantees

NIDILRR's Strategies to Support KT

- Priority writing – Include standardized requirements in priorities to integrate stakeholders' input in project activities
- Competition – Include evaluation factors that reflect the requirements on knowledge translation in grant review criteria
- Networking - Establish and maintain relationships with international KT research community and funding agencies who adopt the KT principles, as well as facilitate internal networking of NIDILRR grantees on KT

NIDILRR's Strategies to Support KT

- Capacity building – Conduct several activities to build KT capacity, both internally and externally
 - For grantees/potential grantees – Support a continuing series of KT workshop/conference to heighten awareness, promote engagement, and build necessary skills related to KT
 - For NIDILRR staff – Provide opportunities for NIDILRR staff to attend KT-related workshops and events offered by grantees or NIDILRR; also conduct internal discussion on KT to promote engagement and buy-in
 - For federal partners, both internally and externally – Invite them to attend our KT workshop/conference, and continue discussion of KT as opportunities arise

NIDILRR's Strategies to Support KT

- Capacity building – continued
 - Establish an informal KT information distribution list
- Reporting requirement
 - Added “Use and Adoption” module into the Annual Performance Report
 - Added requirement to report on the implementation of technology transfer plan for Rehabilitation Research Engineering Centers
- Consistent message from NIDILRR on its commitment to KT

NIDILRR's Strategies to Support KT

- Increased public awareness of available knowledge and resources in disability and rehabilitation
 - [National Rehabilitation Information Center \(NARIC\)](#)
 - [AbleData](#)
- Maintain connection with stakeholders
 - Weekly electronic newsletter ([News and Notes from the NIDRRR Community and beyond](#))
 - NIDILRR Announcement listserv
 - [Research In Focus](#)
 - Social media activities

NIDILRR's Strategies to Support KT

- Knowledge brokering
 - Connect NIDILRR-funded work/grantees to potential adopters when opportunities arise

Contact Information

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