# Reconciling the Supply of Scientific Information with Users' Demands:
## *An Analysis of the Problem*

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# What's the Problem?

- 'Missed Opportunities'

- Science not producing right info or too much of the wrong kind

- Users' needs not met, or unaware of existing info

- Typical solution tends to be supply driven… 'more research is better…'

# Goal of RSD

- Useful information
  - Salient
  - Credible
  - legitimate
- Expand alternatives, clarify choice, achieve desired outcomes

# Placing the Problem in Context

- Demand for useful information is growing
- Why demand is growing
  - Shortcomings of 'Linear Model'
  - Civil Society
  - Science Culture
  - Knowledge and Decisions Systems
- 'gap' between desired goals and status quo

# Workable Solutions & Alternatives

- Identify users needs

- Stakeholder participation

- Social capital

- Manage boundaries

- Improve communication

- Strengthen linkages, networks

- Social learning process

# Processes

- Numerous and varied
  - Hundreds of 'em
  - Scale, power, communication, level of involvement
- Participatory approaches
- Adaptive management
- Science shops, CBR
- Boundary organizations

# Functional Decisions

- What type and quantity of information?

- How to cull, prioritize and package info for users?

- How to decide what info gets used, or not.

- What is the process of negotiating or disputing this?

- When is information no longer needed?

- How is information evaluated for its utility?

# Opportunity for Research

- Functional decision process
- Social capital across science-society boundary
- Context, choosing alternatives and processes
- Boundaries
  - How to manage
  - Boundary orgs: do they work? How?
- Can RSD be done?