

Instructions

The interview should open with an explanation of the purpose of the exercise, the approach being adopted and the use to which the information gathered is being put.

The task of the interviewer is to establish him/herself as a good listener, yet, at the same time, a constructive participant in the conversation.

Normally [this is] in reactive mode, seeking clarification, asking for amplification or feeding back what has just been heard. Sometimes, however, it is necessary, and profitable, to share and stimulate the discussion by way of reciprocity of views or recounting of anecdotes. This has to be infrequent and very carefully judged.

Encourage the participant to consider the future when the response is status quo.

If the answers are very broad, ask for details; if they are very detailed, ask for generalities.

If the person asks “what do you mean by [x]” ask them what they feel is the most important [x] to be considered in the next 10 to 15 years.

Focus question: What does the future of scholarship, education, and research look like in the next 10-15 years?

REFEDS, which is sponsoring this working group, is an organization that represents research and education identity federations around the world. These federations have been formed in countries and in regions to make access to collaborative tools and research materials easier with a single sign-on experience. Usually a research institution like a university takes responsibility for identifying their community to collaborative tools like research wikis or to licensed resources like on-line class applications. We're engaged in strategic research to ask in what efforts these digital infrastructure organizations should invest to meet our end users' needs over the next ten years.

Opening/Ice Breaker

Possible warm up questions could be :

How did you get involved in identity management and system access?

How long have you been involved professionally in research, scholarship and/or education?

Response not part of the data collection

Curiosity

If we had with us a time-travelling representative of REFEDs (or your local federation or your campus identity provider) from 10-15 years in the future, what three things would you like to ask them? [If that is uncomfortable, ask what they would like to ask you.]

Optimism

What do you imagine as the best possible context for teaching, learning, and collaborating? What parts of that experience are the most important to you?

Pessimism

What is most threatening about the direction in which research, education and scholarship are headed?

Values

What do you value about research, education and scholarship?

Competencies

What current competencies enable achieving those values that should be continued?

Do you see those as sustainable over the next 10-15 years? What are gaps in supporting those values?

Questions

What major decisions with long-term implications are you facing at the moment?

Constraints

What major constraints do you experience inside/outside the system?

“Blue-sky”

If all constraints were removed, and you could direct what is done, what would you do?

In a written response, ask whether we can follow up by email or interview