



## Coffee Connections: Rebuilding Connections Among Coworkers in the Library

Item Type	workshop;event
Authors	Lim, Edward Junhao;Cowan, Susanna
Download date	2024-10-03 13:35:45
Item License	<a href="http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/">http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/</a>
Link to Item	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14394/747">https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14394/747</a>

# COFFEE CONNECTIONS

REBUILDING CONNECTIONS AMONG COWORKERS IN THE LIBRARY  
(AN INTERACTIVE SESSION)

Edward Lim & Susanna Cowan  
University of Connecticut Library  
ACRL New England Annual Conference | 6.1.22

# THIS WORKSHOP IS PARTICIPATORY

We would like to connect with each other in the next hour.

Building a sense of community requires your participation!



# GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

Random breakout rooms, 3-4 people per group:

- You have 5 minutes.
- No need to share back in the (big) group.

1. Introduce yourself.
2. What is a "boring" (everyday) activity that you actually enjoy - and why?

# MINI COFFEE CONNECTION



What is a "boring" (everyday) activity that you actually enjoy - and why?

# UConn LIBRARY'S COFFEE CONNECTION IN A NUTSHELL

Build Connections

Learn about each other as individuals

Strengthen existing relationships

Focus on *non-work* topics

RANDOM NAME PICKER,  
A TOOL TO MATCH PARTICIPANTS

[miniwebtool.com/random-name-picker](https://miniwebtool.com/random-name-picker)

SURPRISE IS A  
TYPE OF FUN





# WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER AND DECIDE? 🤔

- Participant pool - who and how?
- Who can initiate a conversation happen?
- How often? Window period?
- What questions are safe, fun & comfortable for all?

# AN INAPPROPRIATE EXAMPLE? ROAST ME 🔥

- Roast: Who here would have a designer wallet, but less than \$2 in their bank account?
- Roast: Who here only goes to the strip club for the #7 special?



# WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED?

- ~~A list of prompts  
questions appropriate for  
your community~~
- Sign up sheet
- Matching participants
- Soliciting feedback from participants

"YOUR WORKSHEET"

[s.uconn.edu/coffee-worksheet](https://s.uconn.edu/coffee-worksheet)

# STARTING FROM SCRATCH

**Who** would benefit from such a program?

- Everyone in the library?
- New colleagues?
- Dept/unit/area?

**What** are questions that are appropriate for your intended audience/participants?

# PEER REVIEW / LEARNING

Offer constructive feedback to your colleague

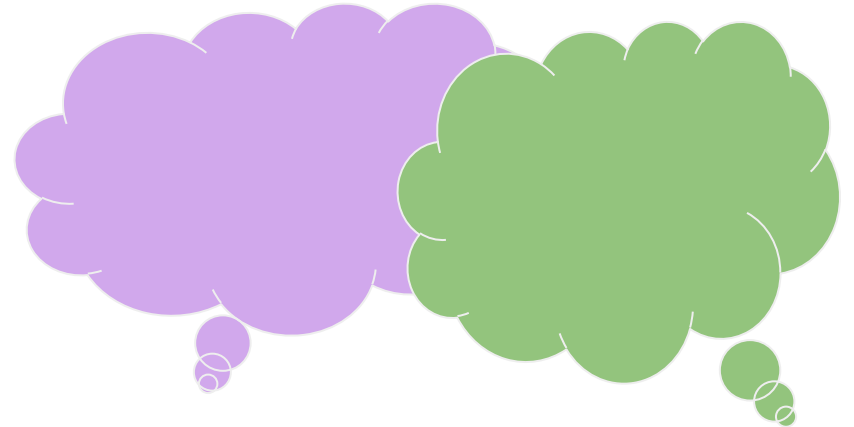
Pretend you are one of the participants: how can the experience be more comfortable and fun?



# NOW YOU REVISE YOUR OWN PLAN

**How** will you allow interested colleagues to sign up, and match them with each other?  
How many - will it be a pairing, trio, or groups of 4?

**How** will you obtain feedback from participants after their connection?



# PUTTING IT TOGETHER

Please share with us any part of the following:

- Your intended audience
- 1-2 questions from a working list of discussion prompts
- Ideas about sign-up & matching participants
- Any thoughts on how you'll assess your program
- Any changes you would make to suit your organization



# TAKEAWAYS FROM TODAY'S SESSION

Building any community requires being respectful of that community *and* encouraging participation (remember that you are a member of that community too!).

Community building should feel safe – and fun!

Give yourself (and ask for) permission to try things...and to try again as things don't work.

THANK YOU!