AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

Planning and reporting on Interest Network activities designed to fulfill their purpose. (See the *Interest Networks Leadership Manual* for the purpose of the Interest Networks.

Interest Network:	**Technology**

Lead Contact Person:
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2022-2023 Report

For the year that **just ended** (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used. In addition, please note if/how any activities enhanced diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.

We had 3 objectives for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

1. Objective 1: Increase membership in Technology Interest Network.
2. Objective 2: Expand outreach and dissemination of technology.
3. Objective 3: Curate a vision of technology research goals.

Regarding our objectives, we spent last year laying the foundation to build upon and expand our membership and dissemination.

Regarding objective 1, we were able to increase active membership in the Technology Interest Network Tech Connect Meetings. Tech Connect meetings are held monthly and are open to interest network members. Our standing agenda includes (a) a review of the latest technology research released over the previous month, (b) technology in the news, (c) networking, and (d) project updates. We also elected a new slate of officers: Kim Fisher, chair; Vincent Bemmel, vice-chair; and Courtney Ackerson, secretary.

Regarding objective 2, we created two subcommittees to work on outreach and dissemination as well as hosted one collaborative webinar. First, we created a website committee with leadership and members to create and maintain a website and newsletter (*Technology Spotlight* newsletter). The purpose of the website is to have an internet home where the public can see the work we do, a place to house our technology newsletters, and connect with membership and member activities. The purpose of Technology Spotlight newsletter is to translate research for practitioners so that they can more readily have access to the latest work in technology and research. We also co-hosted a webinar with the Religious and Spirituality Interest Network related to technology use to increase participation of people with IDD and other disabilities in religious services. Rabbi Alan Cook from Sinai Temple in Champaign, Illinois presented on how he utilizes technology to support members in his congregation including a youth with IDD who used technology during his Bar Mitzvah preparation and service during the pandemic.

We are beginning to think about expanding outreach through social media by building engagement on our LinkedIn page.

Regarding objective 3, we began curating research goals for the group through our discussion of technology research for people with IDD in our Tech Connect meetings and discussing how that content can be integrated into our Technology Spotlight newsletters.

2023-2024 Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies

For the **coming year** (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds. In addition, please note if/how any activities will address diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.

For the upcoming year, we will continue our objectives and expand on the foundation that we have built during the 2022-2023 year.

1.   Increase membership engagement and outreach.

2.   Advance and publish technology research goals

Objective 1. Increase interest network engagement and expand outreach.

This objective will continue to focus on expanding our membership as well as sustaining our engagement activities in the following ways:

- Continue to host monthly Tech Connect meetings and expand involvement by implementing a systematic invitation and notification system. We will email members the week before to let them know about the meeting and send individual calendar invites (instead of a recurring meeting invite) to members. In addition, we created a gmail account and Tech Connect meetings will be held through Google Meet so that all Technology Interest Network leadership can have hosting privileges.
- Create a social media engagement plan as part of the Linkedin page that will disseminate content discussed during Tech Connect meetings throughout the month to facilitate conversation and engagement with members inside and outside our network. We created a LinkedIn page and plan to have a system for posting our Tech Connect content in the LinkedIn page. This will provide regular technology-related content that we can share with our followers and is intended to both drive content towards technology and IDD as well as increase our membership outreach.
- Publish and maintain Technology Interest Network website. The website will provide updated information about our contact information (Tech Interest Network google accounts), host Technology Spotlights, Tech IN history, and resources for the Tech Connect meetings.

Objective 2. Expand research dissemination.

- Collaborate with other networks to do a webinar on technology related to our networks' interests.
- Track the latest technology and IDD research through our monthly meetings.
- Continue to disseminate and discuss research topics and news articles about technology and IDD through TechConnect! meetings
- Translating the technology research into Technology Spotlight content and disseminating this within our networks and in our LinkedIn page for practitioners and other researchers.