

Welcome!



05:00



Ecosystems and collaboration



Peer Learning + Collaboration Fund work supported by Democracy Fund
Facilitated by the Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University

A stylized graphic in the top right corner features several 3D-rendered celestial bodies: a large orange crescent moon, a smaller orange sphere, a blue sphere, and a green sphere. The background is a solid purple color.

Local news + info ecosystems

How an ecosystem feels



How an industry feels



How does it feel to be in the small groups facing each other?

How do you see what's going on around you?

Do you feel a sense or power? Of isolation?



How an ecosystem feels

How does it feel to be facing each other?

Are you able to see the others in the ecosystem more clearly?

Is there a power or unity?

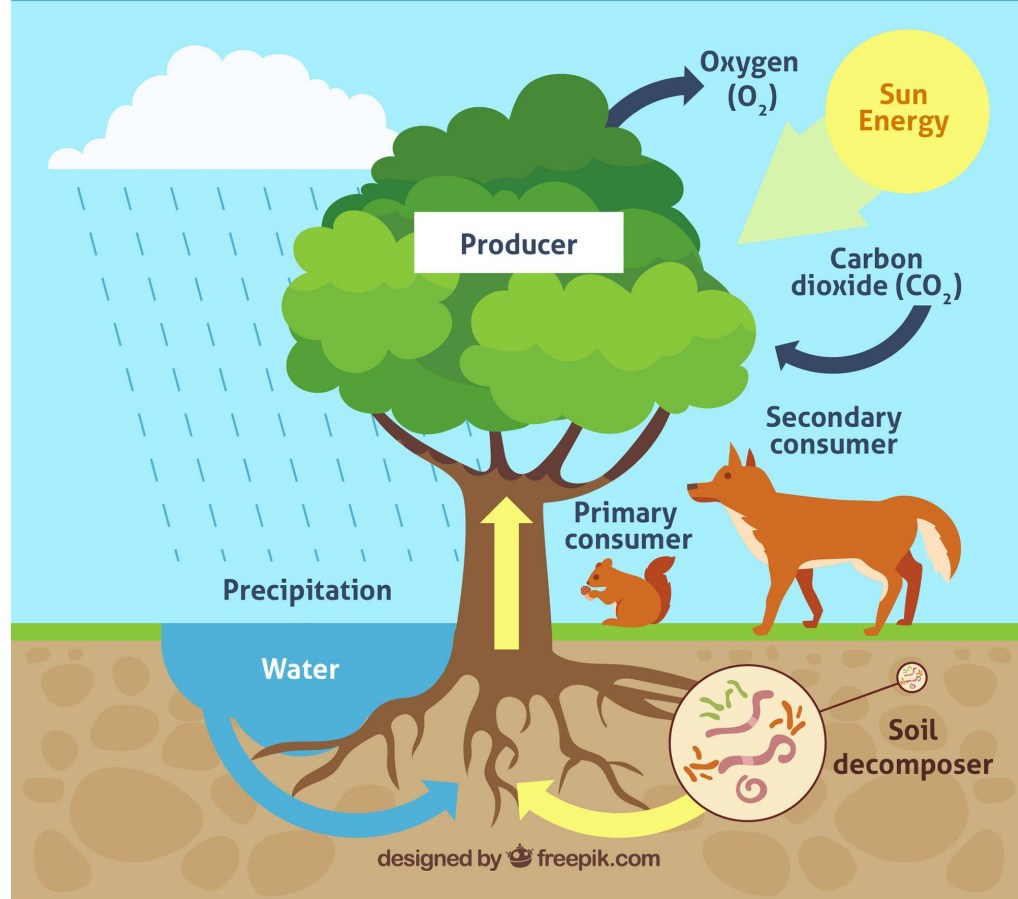
Does it feel like you could work together more now that you are in this formation?



**What is an
ecosystem?**



ECOSYSTEM INFOGRAPHIC



designed by  freepik.com

Graphic from [Freepik](https://www.freepik.com)

What is a news and information ecosystem?



“News and information ecosystems are made up of many players and many ways of meeting the information needs of communities.

The ecosystem is strongest when the various pieces work together, interdependent, building on each other’s work.”

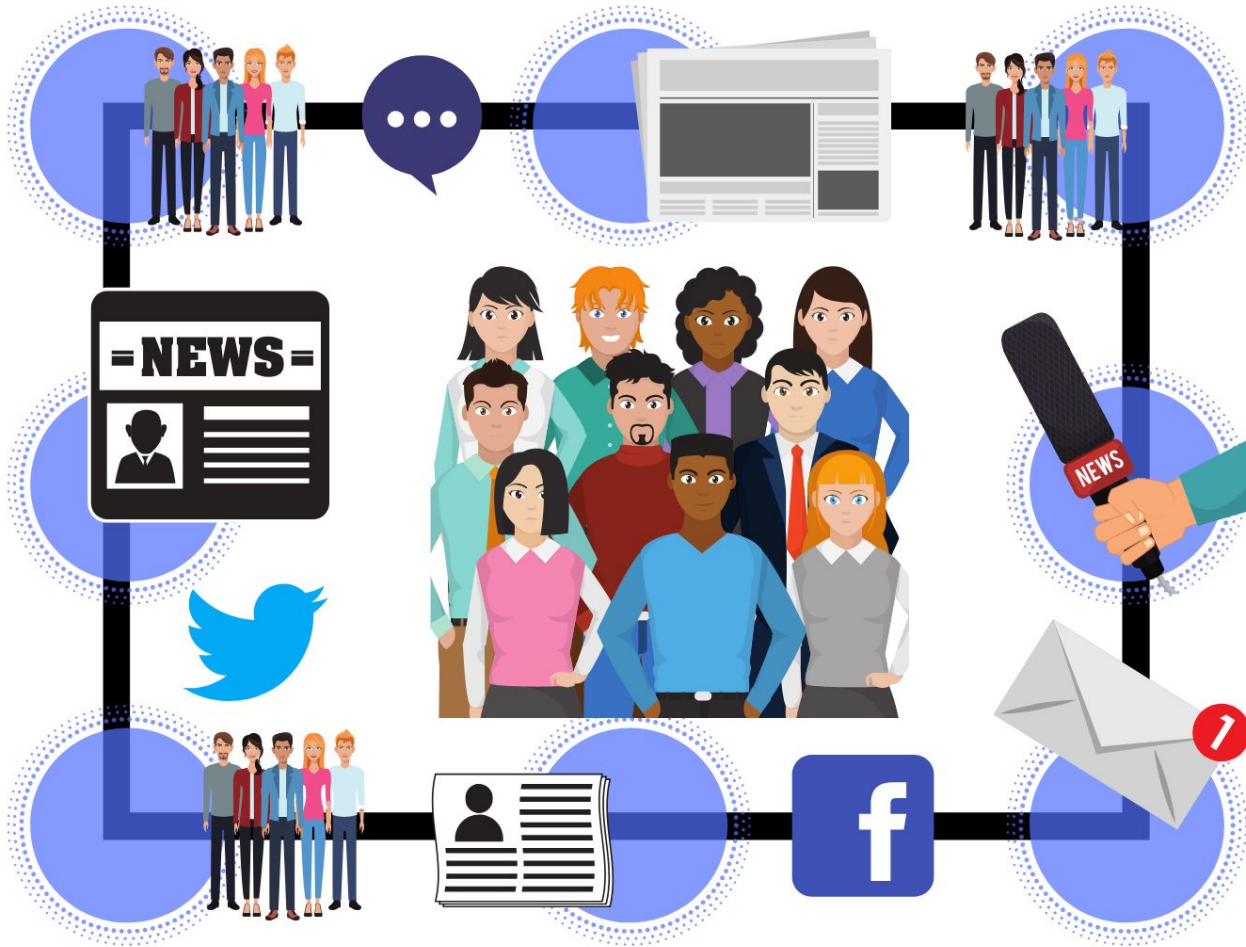
Source: Democracy Fund

What is a news and information ecosystem?



Public radio
Broadcast and cable news shows
Digital news outlets
Local TV news
Magazines
Metro daily newspapers
Nonprofit newsrooms
Alt-weeklies
Local single issue websites
Ethnic newspapers
Foreign language and community radio
Hyperlocal blogs
Facebook pages
Community access TV
SMS and messaging apps
Word of mouth
Community bulletin boards
+ more






What makes a healthy local news ecosystem? They ...

- Are collaborative
- Are diverse, including traditional media, new media, media makers, influencers and sharers, individuals
- Are often networked, with a key intermediary
- Have players that support one another
- Are deeply engaged and partnered with communities and community groups
- Practice transparency in news practices
- People see themselves in the news and information that is produced and shared; there is a high level of trust.

Source: Democracy Fund

Examples of emerging news ecosystems

An abstract graphic on a purple background. It features several 3D-style shapes: a large orange crescent shape, a smaller orange circle, a blue circle, and a green circle. There are also green curved lines and a small blue dot scattered around the main shapes.



COLORADO MEDIA PROJECT

Local News is a Public Good

Together, we are strengthening and sustaining trustworthy local journalism that serves all Coloradans.

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NORTH CAROLINA



NJ NEWS COMMONS

FLAGSHIP PARTNER NETWORK

What we've learned in NJ



Central, neutral third-party helps

Not only editorial coordination

External funding

Consistent effort

Diverse stakeholders

Intentional effort

**What makes
collaboration
successful**





**What does
collaboration
mean?**

Working together.

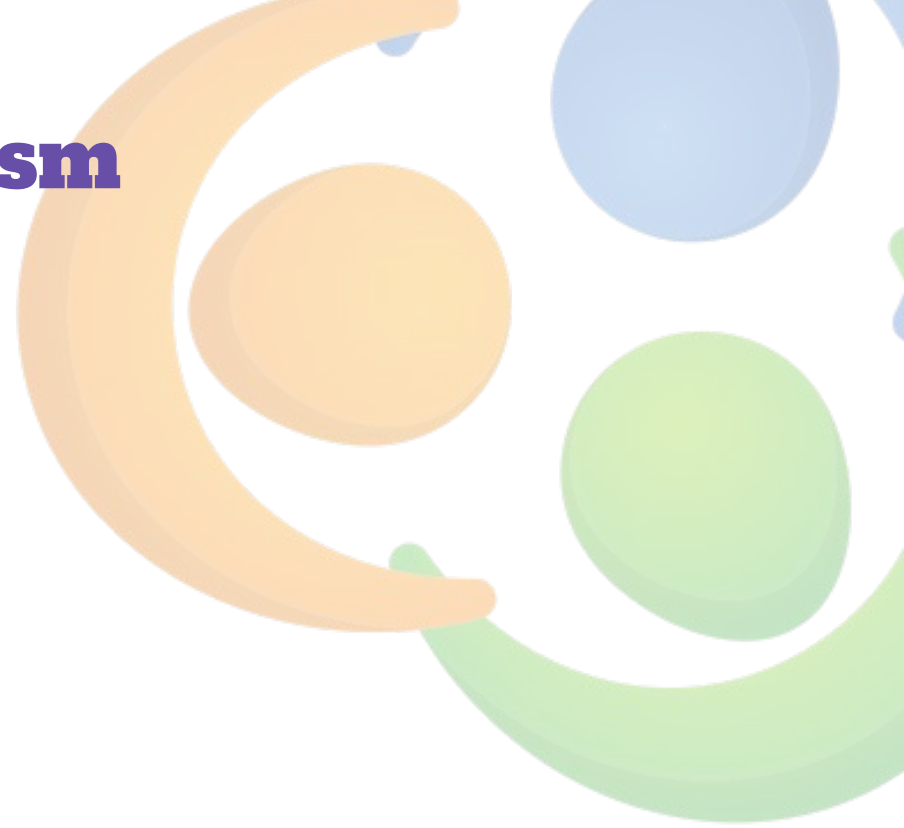
To better serve the information needs of communities.

But that doesn't mean *only* journalists.

When done best, it involves entire ecosystems.

Collaborative journalism

- Formal collaboratives
- Project collaboratives



Models of collaboration



Time:



- Temporary
- Ongoing

Level of integration:

- Separately creating content
- Creating content together
- Full integration

COMPARING MODELS OF COLLABORATIVE JOURNALISM

ARE YOU CONTEMPLATING A COLLABORATIVE REPORTING PROJECT OR PARTNERSHIP? HERE ARE DIFFERENT MODELS OF PARTNERSHIP TO CONSIDER.

		
	ONE-TIME OR FINITE COLLABORATIVE REPORTING PROJECT	ONGOING OR OPEN-ENDED COLLABORATIVE REPORTING PROJECT
Partners create content separately	TEMPORARY & SEPARATE GOOD FOR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-time collaborators • Small outlets looking to expand reach or recognition • High-interest or passion topics 	ONGOING & SEPARATE GOOD FOR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orgs that want greater reach • Topics that require the expertise of multiple orgs • Orgs that need more content than they produce on their own
Partners work together to create content	TEMPORARY & CO-CREATING GOOD FOR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigative and/or accountability reporting • Time-sensitive projects requiring lots of resources • Leveraging unique newsroom skills in return for something you lack 	ONGOING & CO-CREATING GOOD FOR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orgs in the same region with similar audiences • Orgs that want to supplement resources • Partnerships with resources to hire a collaboration manager
Partners share content, data, resources at org level	TEMPORARY & INTEGRATED GOOD FOR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects handling large amounts of data • Orgs with experience collaborating • Orgs with buy-in from all levels 	ONGOING & INTEGRATED GOOD FOR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orgs that need back-office support • Orgs that need supplemental content • Orgs willing to give away some control over operations

Models of Collaboration

	One-Time Finite	Ongoing Open-Ended
Partners create content separately and share it	<p><i>(Temporary and Separate)</i></p> <p>One River, Many Stories; SF Homeless Project; Surging Seas; Toxic NJ</p>	<p><i>(Ongoing and Separate)</i></p> <p>Charlottesville Tomorrow/Daily Progress; USA Today Network; Seattle Times News Partner Network; The Climate Desk; Ohio Valley Resource; Upstate Insight; Fronteras; CNN, Associated Press, McClatchy; CALmatters</p>
Partners work together to create content	<p><i>(Temporary and Co-creating)</i></p> <p>Electionland; American Dream Mall; CrossCheck (First Draft News)</p>	<p><i>(Ongoing and Co-creating)</i></p> <p>NPR's Collaborative Coverage Project; Detroit Journalism Cooperative; Harvest Public Media; The Texas Standard; Documenting Hate (ProPublica)</p>
Partners share content/data/resources at the organizational level	<p><i>(Temporary and Integrated)</i></p> <p>Panama Papers; The Magnetar Trade; The Reentry Project</p>	<p><i>(Ongoing and Integrated)</i></p> <p>Next to Die (The Marshall Project); First Draft News; Alaska public radio arrangement; TAPinto network</p>

Components of successful projects



- Clear common goal
- Clear shared vision for end product
- Project manager (third party)
- Funding
- Basic written agreement
- Relationships between collaborators

Roadblocks some projects hit



- Technology that isn't compatible
- Editing disagreements
- Personality conflicts
- Lack of buy-in at the top
- Equity (esp. Ethnic + community)
- Coordinated roll-out
- Commitment to share content, but then nobody does it

Remedies to avoid roadblocks



- Agree on clear goal.
- Agree on clear vision for end product(s)
- Understand each other's strengths, capitalize on them.
- Get to know each other. (Also read/watch/listen to each other's non-project work.)
- Be intentional about equitable partnering.
- Write it down.

Outcomes



**Working
together can
achieve better
outcomes**



- Global corruption
 - Panama Papers
 - Coverage of new topic
 - The ReEntry Project
 - Resolve Philadelphia
 - Trust
 - Comprova and CrossCheck research
 - Attention
 - Covering Climate Now
 - SF Homeless Project
 - Invading Sea
 - Community building
 - Stories of Atlantic City
-



Thank you!

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collaborativejournalism.org

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