

Describing the roles of Experience Experts using the Involvement Matrix

By: Karen Kelm, Esther Lee, Jessi Lewis, AJ Orena

For this project, we were inspired by the "Involvement Matrix" that Karen van Meeteren introduced to us in the course. The "Involvement Matrix" is a researcher-facing tool, and its goal is to support project leaders for improving collaborations. Particularly, it was designed to help start the dialogue with experience experts, so that everyone is aware about everyone's different roles in different stages of the project.

With feedback from course instructors and our peers, we decided to create two complementary infographics that were patient/public-facing. With this infographic, we hoped to provide **Experience Experts** with a quick but clear definition of the different roles that they could take in a project (as well as some examples). We hope that this, in turn, will create some equalization within the dialogue between Researchers and Experience Experts, so that Experience Experts can also contribute their ideas about what roles they could undertake in the different stages of the project.

Explanation of the two resources

A. Infographic

- Visually-engaging format to attract Experience Experts
- To be displayed or distributed in public settings (e.g. schools and hospitals)

B. Handout

- Q&A format to provide Experience Experts with more information
- To be shared by researchers with Experience Expert before discussing their role in research

Using the Involvement Matrix to Develop Your Impact in Research

Experience Experts are people whose own experiences have equipped them to become experts in a certain area. For example: people with a functional impairment or health condition or their family or friends.

Partner
Working collaboratively on the project. You are an equal participant and voice within the project.
e.g., Co-writing an article for a patients' association magazine.

Decision-maker
Taking initiative and making decisions.
e.g., Deciding the content of a conference presentation or website.

Listener
Developing an understanding of the project and building a passion for collaboration.
e.g., Receiving a clear and understandable version of the results.

Co-thinker
Participating in dialogues by providing opinions and asking questions.
e.g., Giving an opinion about an idea for a project.

Advisor
Providing advice on a project and keeping researchers accountable.
e.g., Speak up if you see a barrier that's been overlooked.

Roles of Experience Experts

When considering your role, ask yourself:
1. What are your strengths?
2. What do you want to do in this project?
3. How far ahead do you want to plan your activities?
4. What impact do you want to have in this project?

These roles are flexible and may change throughout the project.

CanChild, Kids Health Network, McMaster University

Using the Involvement Matrix to Develop your Impact in Research

Am I an Experience Expert?

Experience Experts are people whose own experiences have equipped them to become experts in a certain area. For example- people with a functional impairment of health condition or their family or friends.

What should I ask when considering my role?

- What are your strengths?
- What do you want to do in this project?
- How far ahead do you want to plan your activities?
- What impact do you want to have in this project?

What is the Involvement Matrix?

The Involvement Matrix is a project management tool that helps Researchers and Experience Experts start a dialogue about the roles each member of the team will play in a research project.
www.kidshealth.ca/involvement-matrix/

What are the different roles I can play in research?

Listener
Developing an understanding of the project and building a passion for collaboration.
e.g., Receiving a clear version of the results.

Partner
Working collaboratively on the project, an equal participant.
e.g., Co-writing an article for a patients' association magazine.

Decision Maker
Taking initiatives and making decisions.
e.g., Deciding the content of a conference presentation.

Advisor
Providing advice on a project and keeping researchers accountable.
e.g., Speaking up if you see an overlooked barrier.

Co-thinker
Participating in dialogues by asking questions and providing feedback.
e.g., Giving an opinion about an idea in the project.

Remember, your role in the project is flexible and may change throughout the project.

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Roles of Experience Experts

Partner

Working collaboratively on the project; You are an equal participant and voice within the project.

e.g., Co-writing an article for a patients' association magazine



Decision-maker

Taking initiative and making decisions

e.g., Deciding the content of a conference presentation or website



Advisor

Providing advice on a project and keeping researchers accountable

e.g., Speak up if you see a barrier that's been overlooked



Co-thinker

Participating in dialogues by providing opinions and asking questions

e.g., Giving an opinion about an idea for a project



Listener

Developing an understanding of the project and building a passion for collaboration

e.g., Receiving a clear and understandable version of the results



STAGE OF RESEARCH/PROJECT	ROLE IN PROJECT				
	Listener <small>Is given information</small>	Co-thinker <small>Is asked to give opinion</small>	Advisor <small>Gives (un)solicited advice</small>	Partner <small>Works as an equal partner</small>	Decision-maker <small>Takes initiative, (group) decision</small>
Preparation					
Implementation					
Execution					

www.kcrutrecht.nl/involvement-matrix/

When considering your role, ask yourself:

1. What are your **strengths**?
2. What do you **want** to do in this project?
3. How **far** ahead do you want to plan your activities?
4. What **impact** do you want to have in this project?

These roles are flexible and may change throughout the project.



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What should I ask when considering my role?

- What are your **strengths**?
- What do you **want** to do in this project?
- How **far** ahead do you want to plan your activities?
- What **impact** do you want to have in this project?

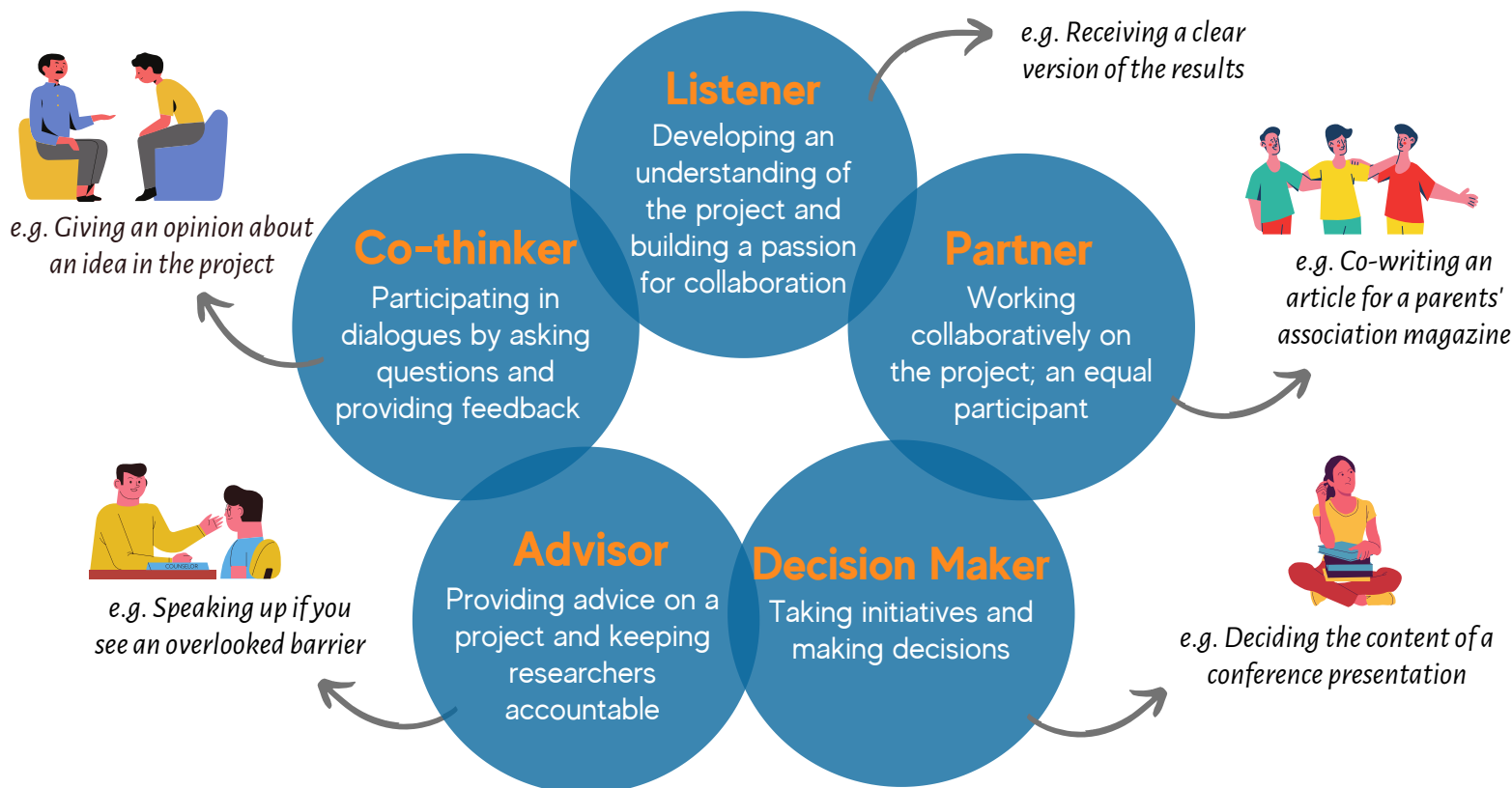
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STATE OF RESEARCH/PROJECT	ROLE IN PROJECT				
	Listener It just happens	Co-thinker It adds to your opinion	Advisor They just follow advice	Partner Works as an equal partner	Decision maker They choose what to do
Preparation					
Execution					
Finalisation					

What are the different roles I can play in research?



Remember, your role in the project is flexible and may change throughout the project.