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SIGMOD New Researchers
Symposium

Who am I...

- I'm a faculty member at the University of British Columbia (in Vancouver, Canada, eh)

- I work in data integration and metadata management with a focus on real-world data

- I'm about to start my last year before I submit my tenure packet (i.e., I'll turn it in in Sept. 2011)

My quest for a job

- How did I decide what I wanted?
  - Internships
  - Figuring out what would be challenging in a faculty position and how to overcome it (i.e., public speaking)
- I knew I wanted to get a research-intensive academic position and live in the same house as my husband, so...
  - I applied to 46 institutions
  - I applied to jobs that I was not qualified for
  - I applied to places in Canada
  - I had a (half-baked) back-up plan

Yeah! I got a job! Now what?

- I made sure that I had people I could talk to (good)
- I survived teaching my first few classes – and did so by making things easy for me (good)
- I started out by working on some extensions from my thesis work (good)
- I decided to branch out into practical applications (good)
- I spent some time looking for collaborations (good)
- I got sucked into some bad collaborations (bad)

How can you tell if a collaboration has a high risk of being bad?

- It's not clear what **you** are going to get out of it

- You're being added on at the last minute to satisfy funding/reviewer requirements

- You are working with people you don't get along with

So, if you're in a bad collaboration, what do you do?

- Consider if you can leave it. No, really, consider this
- Consider how you can get what you need (a key to success in research anyway)

Mid-stream

- I checked to see what kinds of publications "counted" at my institution (good)
- I checked in with my mentors and took my reappointment feedback seriously (good)
- I had some good collaborations set up (good)
- I worked on some things without collaborators (good)
- I had good collaborations set up in a wide variety of areas (not so good)

Almost at tenure time

- If you don't hear "no" often, you're not aiming high enough
  - This is very good advice
  - But you want to hear yes sometimes, both for your CV and for your state of mind
- Thinking about letter writers
  - Find out what the rules are… and consider tweaking your plans
  - Go to conferences
  - Invite people to speak at your university
  - Plan on trying to do the "pre-tenure" tour

Now what?

- I don't know; ask me in 2 years
- In the meantime, I'm still working hard

As a wise friend once said: Think of tenure this way: the university has n years to prove that it's the kind of place that you can do the work you want to and be successful