

# Optimizing SRNL Resources and Housekeeping with the Creation of an "eDatabase"

Presented by Carina Grady

LEAP Shark Tank Event 22 July 2020

# Being an R&D worker...



#### Lab optimization efforts...



Hi Brenda,

Here is the list of the new lab names we discussed yesterday:

- 149 Clean Room
- 155 Mechanical Testing Laboratory
- 152 Hydrogen Fuel Cell Laboratory
- 151 (N/A for now)
- 145 Flow Battery Laboratory
- 142 Energy Storage Laboratory
- 135 Catalyst Laboratory
- 136 Induction Catalysis Laboratory
- 140 Nanomaterial Synthesis Laboratory
- 138 User Facility Characterization Laboratory
- 191 Modular Laboratory
- 194 Additive Manufacturing Laboratory
- 193 High Temperature Laboratory
- 196 Permeation Laboratory
- 195 Thin Film Synthesis Laboratory (Note: GaTech's lab group is named Polymer Thin Film Processing)

The walkdown was a great review for me to tour all the labs and see all the various equipment. Here is what I think the next steps should be:

- Go down lab-to-lab again, this time recording/labeling where the equipment should be moved. Jay
  or someone else who is familiar with all of the equipment would have to join me.
- Compile a spreadsheet with the old and proposed rooms for each machine. I can also make a visual
  if I have the blueprints/layouts of the ARC.
- Email these documents to the lab owners. Get their input and their final approval.
- Move equipment.

I also have a list of machines that are in the database, so I can make sure that is accounted for during the walkdown. Let me know what you think!

Best,

#### Carina Grady, E.I.T.

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#### Objective:

To reorganize, rearrange, and reoptimize HTRL/EMRL lab space to increase productivity and efficiency.

#### Plan of Action:

- Talk with lab custodians and PIs of the lab to discuss how they would like their lab rearranged for increased optimization.
- Planning phase: Label and record which equipment they would like moved out or excessed.
   Discuss relevant available equipment available in other labs to see if they would like it moved in their lab. Update and reference the partial equipment sheet for this step.
- Create a list of equipment moving in/out of the specific lab as an action plan for arranging. If there is a substantial number of equipment being moved, create a visual map.
- Move the equipment in accordance to the plan. Enlist the help of available lab technicians, custodians, and support staff.
- Once the equipment is moved and the lab custodian is satisfied with the rearranging, move on to another lab and repeat the steps.

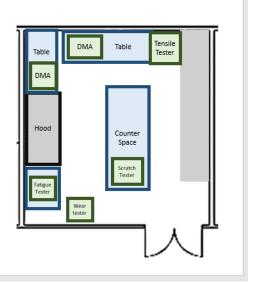
#### 155: Mechanical Testing

#### **Moving Machines**

- DMA (1): move from 195
- DMA (2): -
- Tensile Tester: -
- · Scratch Tester: move from 138
- · Fatigue Tester: move from 136
- · Wear Tester: move from 135

#### Housekeeping

- Clean/empty out hood
- Move/excess the toolboxes (and other items) under the tables
- · Get rid of flammable cabinet





- Outdated
- Incomplete
- Hard to find

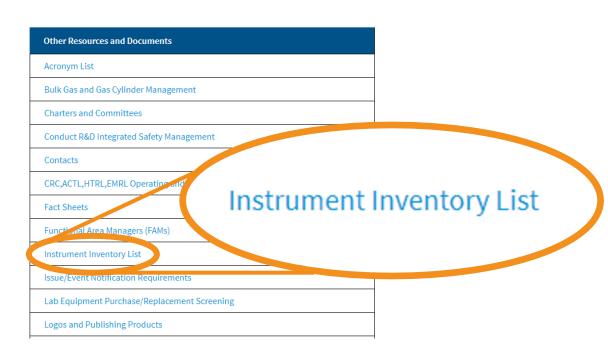
# ... Does an item database exist?

#### Looking for a lab-wide database...

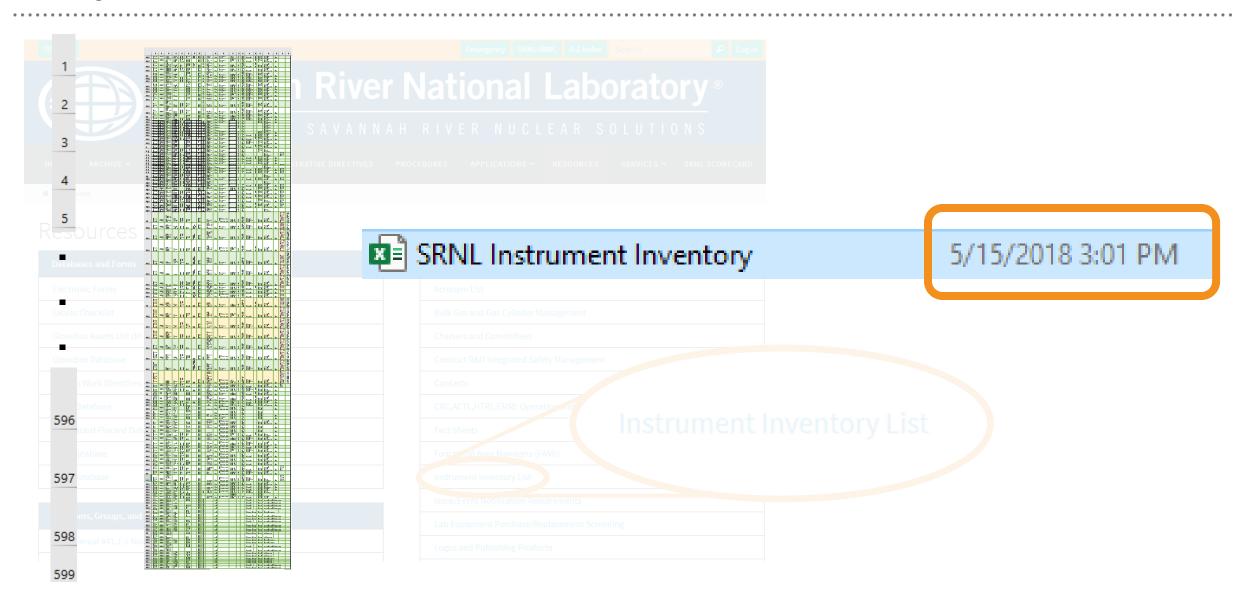


#### Resources

Electronic Forms				
Excess Checklist				
Glovebox Assets Lis	t (M-MBD-A-0000:	2)		
Glovebox Database				
Interim Work Direct	ives (IWDs)			
Label Database				
Lab Hazard Placard	Database			
MSB Database				
USQ Database				
Programs, Groups,	- 10			

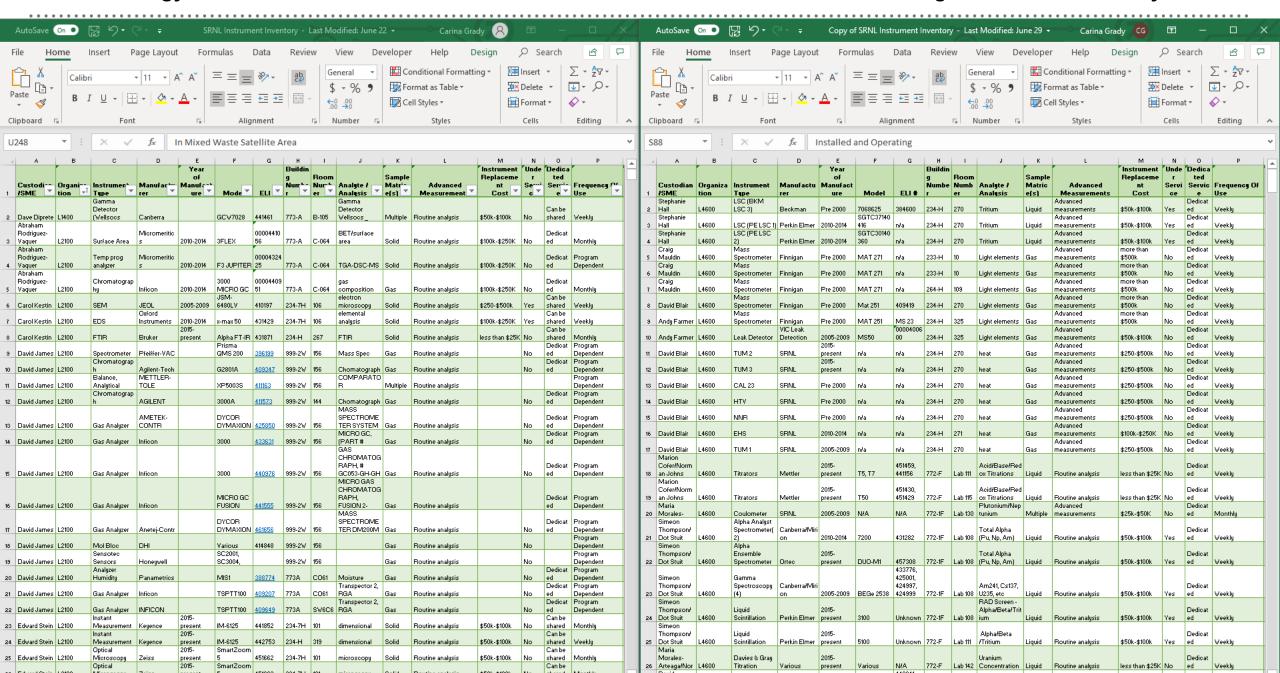


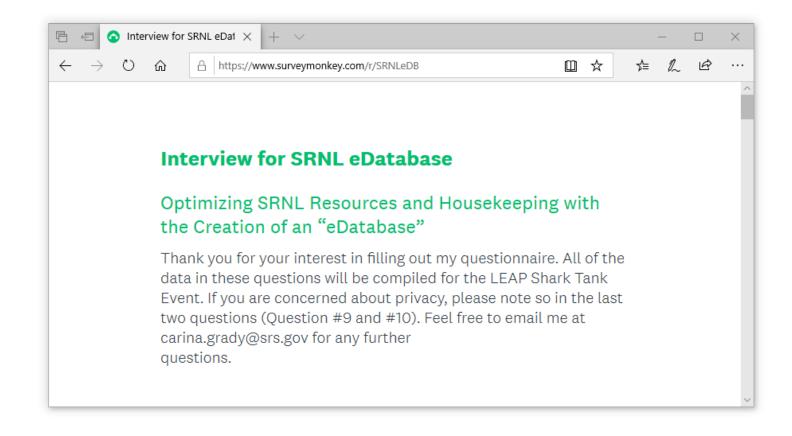
#### Looking for a lab-wide database...



#### L3330: Energy Materials

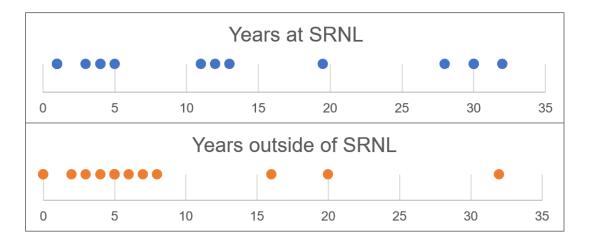
#### L9100: Advanced Modeling, Simulation, & Analytics





# **15 Responses:** R&D Hands-On Workers

#### **Experience, Location, Workgroup, Title**



Location	Total
999-2W	5
773-A	3
773-41A	2
773-42A	3
735-A	3
723-A	1

#### **List of Workgroups**

Analytical Development
Energy and Biotech Projects
Energy Materials
Environmental Sciences
Hydrogen Isotope Proc Science
Nonproliferation Technologies Section
Research and Development Engineering
Weapons Production Technology

#### **List of Positions**

Laboratory Specialist
Associate Engineer
Engineer
Senior Engineer
Principal Engineer
Fellow Engineer
Principal Scientist
Senior Fellow Scientist

<sup>\*</sup> Some information not listed for anonymity

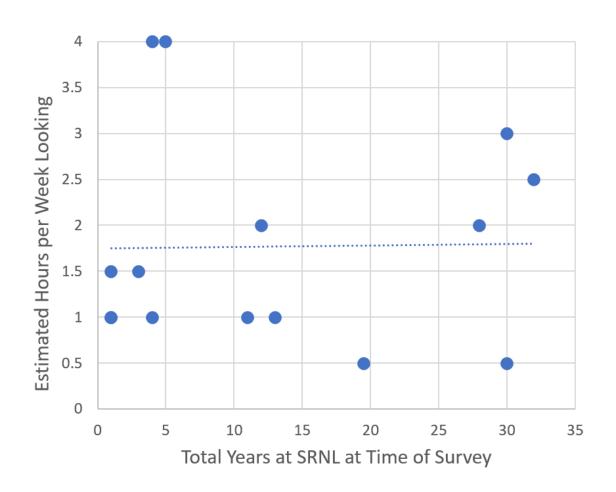
#### "How often do you look for items? How much time per week?"

3. On average, how much time per week do you spend
looking for items, tools, equipment, and/or samples?

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- O to 0.5 hour
- 0.5 to 1 hour
- 1 to 1.5 hours
- 1.5 to 2 hours
- 2 to 2.5 hours
- 2.5 to 3 hours
- More than 3 hours

Title	How Long per Week
Senior Engineer	More than 3 hours
Senior Engineer	More than 3 hours
Senior Engineer	2.5 to 3 hours
Senior Fellow Scientist	2 to 2.5 hours
Principal Engineer	1.5 to 2 hours
Principal Scientist	1.5 to 2 hours
Associate Engineer	1 to 1.5 hours
Lab Specialist	1 to 1.5 hours
Associate Engineer	0.5 to 1 hour
Engineer	0.5 to 1 hour
Fellow Engineer	0.5 to 1 hour
Principal Scientist	0.5 to 1 hour
Senior Engineer	0.5 to 1 hour
Fellow Engineer	0 to 0.5 hour
Senior Fellow Engineer	0 to 0.5 hour



How Long per Week		
More than 3 hours		
More than 3 hours		
2.5 to 3 hours		
2 to 2.5 hours		
1.5 to 2 hours		
1.5 to 2 hours		
1 to 1.5 hours		
1 to 1.5 hours		
0.5 to 1 hour		
0 to 0.5 hour		
0 to 0.5 hour		

#### "Would a database of research equipment help you write more proposals?"

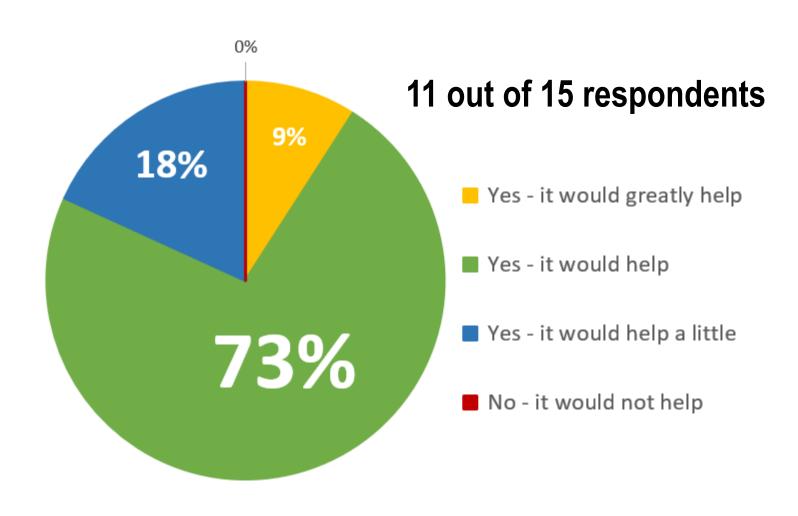
7. (For proposal writers) Say there is a list or database of SRNL's high-value research equipment. Would this list motivate you to write more proposals?

i.e. Because John Doe had access to an equipment database, he knew SRNL's research capability. Because of this, he submitted a proposal knowing that he did not need to buy expensive equipment.

Yes - it would greatly O No - it would not help.
help.
N/A

Yes - it would help.

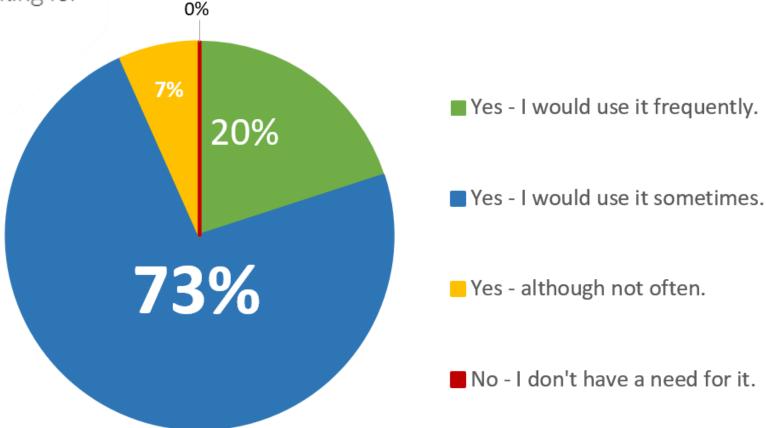
Yes - it would help a



8. If there was an electronic database that lists SRNL's items, tools, and equipment, would you utilize it rather than conventionally looking for an item or asking around?



- Yes I would use it sometimes.
- Yes although not often.
- No I don't have a need for it.



#### Various input...

Hi Carina,

Happy to help. I think this is a good idea, an emphasis on the capital equipment, specifically analytical capabilities is an idea I had that I think would help promote proposals and facilitate more research.

A question interrogating how a lack of knowledge about analytical equipment has hindered prior proposal writing efforts or discovery of analytical equipment after the fact may have benefited a submitted proposal may be germane to your survey, this would be slightly different than #7.

Additionally, some method to weight how much "lab work" and proposal writing someone is doing may be helpful to help weight your responses. I see 2 benefits here, in making existing in-lab work easier, and making it easier for someone to leverage SRNL capabilities when writing proposals, but it's probably important to try and separate those signals as much possible to bolster the points you're making.

To be honest, groups are very protective of the items they buy. An older college had a locker full of never used pumps locked away because he didn't want to share and now they are past their expiration. You may want to set up a way for groups to not only see if another group has a piece of equipment but also if they are will to sell, lend or schedule time to use it. That way no one feels like toes have been stepped on.

This would be extremely compatible with SRNL R&D Supply cage (common lab items available to all SRNL). Also advertised on homepage (SRNL Consumable Supply Area) and is a Cl initiative.

I think the ability to search capital equipment and its custodian would be a major enabler for basic science proposal writing.

The most important is that there is no real way of finding capabilities or expertise in the lab. Only by word of mouth.

#### Carina.

All of the instruments are supposed to be listed in the ELN now although most people have not input that information. The ELN is not the most convenient method to look up instrumentation from a database viewpoint, but you will likely hear this as a response to your idea. I would suggest finding advantages of what you are proposing over the search methods for instruments in the ELN.

I filled out the survey and submitted it. I didn't think about this until afterwards, but in addition to tracking equipment, it would be nice to have a central database where we could shop for services. For instance, if I wanted a certain type of analysis done, who could I pay to do it? If I wanted a web site developed, who could I pay to create one?

If you develop an electronic database for this equipment, it needs to be kept up to date. If it is not, the database is of limited value. We have tried this in the past, and it is frequently out of date. How will your proposal be different?



For what it is worth, I attempted to do something similar with the mechanical testing equipment spread across the Lab a while ago. There is a lot of equipment in numerous labs with several owners and no one really knew what was available. I used a MS-Access database with the equipment information, calibrations, pictures, POC's if available; sort of a 'Distributed Mechanical Testing Facility'. The main problem I had was limited management buy in, so it did not get farther than the database.

A bit of unsolicited comments, (I was the LEAP-Professional Development chair for 2 years when we started the Shark Tank, and this is a good concept and the comments are intended as support). Even recently, I have lost a large amount of time, months, trying to find an oven or furnace for a small project and took a lot of asking around and then follow up checking to see if the equipment would be compatible. After all that, now going to the Glass Shop for a custom device.

-Labor rate seems very low, LDRDs are unburdened and the rates are generally over \$100/hr, fully burdened rates are  $\sim$ \$250/hr. There are some good estimating templates available.

-It almost seems like too much, combining large capital equipment with consumables in the same database. The smaller items might do well in an inventory tracking software (COTS) with barcode scanning. Also, at least in 773-A there is a material supply 'store' that is starting to address some of the smaller consumable needs and the Tool Crib for small tool items. A separate system might be needed or an integrated approach could build on what is already available. The small dollar items are fairly mobile and tend to walk around quite a bit, keeping tack of number and location might be fairly time consuming. That being said, it seems to be working for the chemical inventory system.

-Instead of iPads, a decent amount of staff have iPhones and almost everyone at EMRL/HTRL, and

-Instead of iPads, a decent amount of staff have iPhones and almost everyone at EMRL/HTRL, and there are numerous apps that can handle scanning barcodes or QR's, and would reduce the hardware costs and lower the threshold for people adopting it.

-Might get asked about a cost comparison of a commercial inventory system vs developing one internal.

-Another option, at least for the larger equipment, is to use GRANTA. It is a very powerful data management software that we/Lab have access and it is implemented across the DOE complex, mostly for AM applications but the use of it is spreading into other areas. While it is primarily for experimental, reference, and modeling data storage several groups have started storing equipment data in it as well, e.g. you do a Raman test and link to the instrument and it carries over all the equipment information, calibration dates/tests etc.. I believe there should be a way that the equipment information could be exported to a web page/user interface that could then be searchable.

Did survey.

There are 2 links you should look at on SRNL home page, both under pother resources.

Equipment listing and Consumable supply area.

I think your data base would fit nicely with the consumable supply area – CI initiative.

Nice job.

There is a list on the SRNL homepage of available equipment (under other resources and documents, Instrument Inventory List). Mark Barnes had it put together and posted. I do not know how frequently (or if) it is updated

Good idea, just want to have a system in place to ensure it is kept up to date.

In theory it is a great idea. I just see it being hard to motivate people to put the smaller items in a database, time is precious. Also, just look at accountable equipment inventory process. It is hard to get people to track what is required vs an optional system.

Because we do ultra low level work, we would tend not to share equipment outside the group. Something that would be very helpful is if a database/system could be set up that we could use within our group to track tools, equipment, supplies, etc... and that would indicate their location and who they are checked out to. Anything set up would need to be simple and not time consuming. For example, we have a set of cabinets with Swagelok parts. It would be extremely helpful to have a system that parts could be scanned out when people take them so that the parts get charge to the correct job, and so that we can order more as they get low.

The SRNL Electronic Database (eDatabase) is a one-stop shop database that lists all items. This will result in cost savings, optimized resources, and increased convenience.

#### **Graded Approach:**

- 1. Capital Items
- 2. Uncommon Items
  - Tools
  - Inventory
  - Equipment
- 3. Common Items
- 4. Bonus Features
  - Excess
  - Skill Collaboration
  - Samples
  - Waste

#### **Phase I: Capital Items**









#### **Tensile Tester**



**POC: John Jones** 

Location: L155, 999-2W

Analysis: Manufacturer: Model Number:

#### **ONH Analyzer**



**POC: Jane Doe** 

Location: L194, 999-2W

Analysis: Manufacturer: Model Number:

#### **3D Printer**



**POC: Joe Schmoe** 

Location: L194, 999-2W

Analysis:
Manufacturer:
Model Number:

# **Spark Plasma Sintering**



**POC: Jill Hill** 

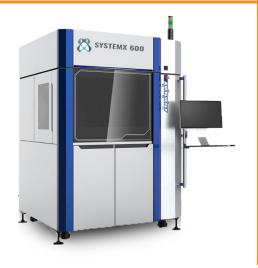
Location: L136, 999-2W

Analysis:
Manufacturer:
Model Number:

- —Every individual item is logged.
- -Search ELI to easily look it up.
- -POC is accountable.
- —These items are typically large, expensive, and don't get move around often.
- —If they do move around, the POC must update the location.









#### Phase II: Uncommon Items











**Strap Wrench** 

**POC: John Jones** 

**Location:** L137, 999-2W

Analysis:

Oil Pump Hose

**POC: Jane Doe** 

Location: L137, 999-2W

Analysis:

**Hot Plate and Stirrer** 

**POC: Joe Schmoe** 

Location: L194, 999-2W

Analysis:

**Sonication Bath** 

POC: Jill Hill

**Location: L145, 999-2W** 

Analysis:

**Optical Microscope** 

**POC: Joan Johnson** 

Location: L138, 999-2W

Analysis:

#### **Tools**



### **Inventory**



## **Equipment**







#### To Borrow:

- Search item in eDatabase
- Borrow item
- Return when done

#### To Take:

- Search item in eDatabase
- Take item
- Notify procurement if supply is low

#### To Borrow:

- Search item in eDatabase
- Borrow item
- Return when done

#### To Take:

 Buy a new one using project spending

#### To Store:

 Store in location per eDatabase and change quantity available

- —Not logged individually.
- –Not held accountable due to inconvenience.
- These items are typically medium-tosmall in size and may be pricy but still affordable.
- —Quantity is noted and kept in supply.
- –Categorized:
  - Tools → Borrow
  - Inventory → Take (Notify procurement if supply is low)
  - Equipment → Borrow, Store



#### **Phase III: Common Items**











**Fasteners** 

**Location:** L137, 999-2W

**Hex Wrenches** 

Location: L137, 999-2W

**Plastic Bags** 

Location: L194, 999-2W

**Syringes** 

Location: L145, 999-2W

**Container Bins** 

Location: L138, 999-2W

#### Similar to SRNL Lab Consumable Supply Area

- –Logged as a general item and place.
- These items are typically small in size, inexpensive, and are consumables/easily lost.
- Quantity is not noted but kept in supply.
- —Notify procurement if supply is low.



#### A new culture...

This initiative has been done before...

How is this idea different?

How can we ensure the database gets up-to-date?

# A Culture of Housekeeping & Accountability

Housekeeping



Accountability

July 2020 SAFETY MEETING

**Teamwork** 



#### **Potential Savings**

#### **Assumptions**

• 2-4 weeks to develop in SharePoint done by Digital Transformation

Yearly Costs: No eDatabase

Cost savings of thousands of dollars

- Man-Hour Rate: \$200/hour
- Assume one workgroup for now (15 people)

#### Low Range

Item	Time	Rate	*	Yearly Cost per X15 Researchers
Researcher	0.5 hour/week	\$200/hour	\$5,200	\$78,000

#### **High Range**

Item	Time	Rate	•	Yearly Cost per X15 Researchers	
Researcher	3 hours/week	\$200/hour	\$31,200	\$468,000	

Item	Rate	Quant	ity	Total Cost	
Software Development	\$200/hour	160 ho	urs	\$32,000	
Initial System Inventory	\$200/hour	160 hours		\$32,000	
			Total	\$64,000	

# **Cost Savings**

- —Time saved looking
- Accidental repurchasing
- More funding from proposals



# **More Convenient**

- Increased productivity
- Increased collaboration
- Easily accessible



# **Optimize Resources**

- Sharing tools
- Lessen likelihood of losing items
- Reuse excess equipment





# Any questions?