

Roundtables

A Roundtable session is literally a collection of round tables at which 30 minute presentations, demonstrations, guided discussions, trouble-shooting or brain-storming exchanges take place. Sessions are repeated three times during a scheduled 90 minute block of time. Roundtables are highly interactive group sessions that create opportunities for in-depth learning.

One presenter or discussion leader, or a pair of collaborators, is assigned to each Roundtable. An audience gathers around each table, presenters or discussion leaders conduct their sessions simultaneously with approximately 10-20 minutes of presentation or demonstration and 10-20 minutes of questions from audience or discussion. After questions and discussion come to a close, the audience will leave the table and move to a different table. Roundtables can comfortably accommodate up to 12 participants per session.

The Roundtable format provides a great opportunity for a less formal, but more in depth exchange of information. Presenters or discussion leaders provide initial input and then engage attendees in a process of reflection and discussion. Roundtable sessions are very appropriate for pre-viewing research-in progress; peer-group examination of challenging methodologies or controversial study results; sharing technical details of an IR practice; brainstorming about common challenges; sharing useful resources; sounding new ideas, etc. Each Roundtable should have a specific topic, the particular projects and experiences, or interests that presenters or discussion leaders care to bring to their peers. No audio-visual equipment is provided for Roundtable sessions. Handouts can be distributed to attendees and preparatory materials can be posted to the TAIR conference web site for download by attendees. Presenters or Discussion Leaders should bring a supply of business cards to share with attendees and should also collect names and contact information from all attendees This is to capture attendance numbers, to follow up with emails when additional materials are requested and to assist with professional networking.