

LIBR 204 - Week 5 Discussion

Evans and Ward (2007) identified the use of teams within information organizations as an area of increased study and discussion (p. 209). The autonomy and self-sufficiency of teams is a common thread when discussing working in teams (Evans, 2007, p. 209-210). This distinguishing characteristic of teams surprised me when listening to Haycock's (2007) lecture on working in teams. Similarly, I was surprised to notice the difference between a committee, team, and group. A committee lacks authority and autonomy to make decisions and produce a product. On the other hand a team and its individual members "have independence over how they're going to address the problem or issue that they've been given". The team has full power given them to work on their own in accomplishing a given goal or assignment. They have "authority for producing a product, and often a recommendation" (Haycock, 2007). Differentiating teams from groups and committees helps expand my vision of the ideal team work environment. With the teams independence comes greater responsibility and accountability to accomplish the established goals and expectations of the team. I think this is why Haycock (2007) mentions early on in the lecture that if we are to learn anything about working in teams it should be "that the key to successful teams is group goals and individual accountability".

References

Evans, G. E., & Ward, P. L. (2007). *Management basics for information professionals*. (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Neal-Schumann.

Haycock, K. (2007). *Working in Teams* [digital audio]. Retrieved from <http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/courses/203/personal/teamwork.htm>