



Organizing AITC Resource Tubs

There isn't a right or wrong way to organize resource tubs. So much depends on who the users are, what resources and finances are available and how the tubs will be managed.

The following is a series of questions to consider as you organize your resource tubs and some answers or things to consider.

What kind of tub system do you want to develop?

- Ask potential users of the tubs – teachers, volunteers, librarians, students
- What is workable in your situation? – who, where, how often, costs

The logistics of the tubs

- Where will they be stored? - FB office, school, library, CESA, your home
- Who will keep track of the tubs, inventory and tracking information? - AITC chairman, librarian, FB secretary, teachers...
- How will they be transported? – Volunteers, teachers must pick them up, CESA vans, library transport system
- Who re-orders consumable items if they are included in the tub? AITC chairman, FB secretary, volunteers
- Size of tub? Get your items first and then find a tub they'll fit in! Leave extra room as not everyone will pack them efficiently. Keep in mind how easy the tubs are to carry, transport and how the lid system works.

Funding tubs

- Grants and donations – what is available in your area, businesses, AITC grants, FFA Alumni, donations by FB members (put an article in your newsletter)
- AITC budgets – does your county FB allocate funds for AITC?
- Initial funding vs. maintaining the tubs – Initial costs to purchase the tubs, resources, and misc. items. How do you add new resources to the tubs?
- Replacement of items- Are there consumables in the tubs? Lost items?

What do you put in the tubs?

- Specialty tubs – Topics such as: cheese, pizza, history, biotechnology, goats, beef, dairy, cranberries, nutrition...
- General resources – A sampling of various resources that teachers can use
- Targeted to grades – Grade specific so all resources can be used. Can they be correlated to state standards? For example, a 4th grade tub.
- Targeted to units – The tub could focus on math, history, nutrition, art, social studies, science. Probably best to also target it to a grade level for those units.
- Targeted to books – Select a book and all items in the tub are related to the book, or the subject. For example: ***A Young Shepherd***: You could include the book, wool dyeing information, wool samples, carding equipment, samples of feed for sheep, pictures of breeds of sheep, a sheep puppet, craft ideas related to sheep...

Promotion of your tubs and getting them used

- Teacher in-service days – take the tub in after school and do a 15 minute presentation on what's inside! Ask if you can meet with a group of teachers. Does your school have in-service times that you could submit a proposal to conduct an in-service on your tub and AITC program?
- Press releases and articles – Get some publicity in the local community newspapers or districts you want using your tubs.
- 4-H, FFA, home schools, libraries and other groups in the community – County FB newsletter. County 4-H newsletter. Library newsletters. FFA Alumni newsletters. Home school associations. After school programs. Daycare and pre-schools.

After they're set up

- Evaluations and feedback – have some type of form right in the tub.
- Checking inventory – who makes sure that every thing is in the tub when it's returned?
- Keeping the resources current – periodically check through the tubs to take inventory, how current the resources are, and put in new resources that you have found.