Virginia Tech researchers have created the Virginia Tech Knowledge Networks, a repository of more than 5,000 publications by the College of Engineering faculty, which enables researchers to test ideas and discover different kinds of interaction patterns across departments. The collaborative patterns show that centers bring together researchers from different disciplines and that the interaction patterns of large centers are similar to those of many disciplinary departments. The researchers are using a community memory platform that enables users who are not experts in data mining to make sense of massive amounts of data. "This system is particularly useful for newcomers to the discipline, such as graduate students in the newly formed Departments of Engineering Education, as it provides a comprehensive and systematic understanding of the formation and growth of the field," says Virginia Tech professor Aditya Johri. Last year Virginia Tech launched the Discovery Analytics Center to bring together researchers from computer science, statistics, mathematics, and electrical and computer engineering to tackle knowledge discovery problems in such areas of national interest as intelligence analysis, sustainability, neuroscience, and systems biology.

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