New Researcher Symposium: How to Fail

L. Haas
Failure is not always a bad thing!

• It’s a learning experience
  – Like ice skating or skiing – if you don’t fall down, you weren’t trying hard enough

• Fear is a big inhibitor of success – getting over it is good!

• Successful people usually failed at some point
  – Algorithms class, R*, Almaden Innovation Grant

• Still, it’s not something we normally try to do 😊
Some ways to fail

• Don’t pay any attention to social niceties
  – Do it all yourself
  – Do it with others, but don’t worry about them

• Don’t scope your projects appropriately
  – Don’t worry about whether anyone needs it
  – Don’t worry about whether you have the resources to do it
  – Don’t worry about whether you have “market permission”

• Don’t ever say no!
  – Make sure you are involved in everything
  – Don’t worry about your personal needs and priorities
  – Quantity is always better than quality... right?
  – And for goodness sakes, don’t write down what you agreed to!