

IATUL

International Association of Scientific and Technological University Libraries

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The Evolving World of e-Science: Impact and Implications for Science and Technology Libraries

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Why Data is Important: Recent NIH compliance mandates open access of articles. Also, NSF now requires a data management plan. It is vital that the library be involved in these efforts to help where our traditional strengths of organization, access, and preservation are strong.

Strategic Goal:

Set up a dynamic program of data curation and digital research stewardship that is respected worldwide and serves the needs of our local researchers. There is a huge need for the preservation of datasets, and the library can be a fundamental partner in this Digital Conservancy effort.

Action Steps:

- At the national level: Work with NSF, NIH to understand the mandates; find others that are able to collaborate to create regional centers of data expertise, and regional dataset collections of different strengths.
- Complete Ethnographic Study of the Bioengineering Building. Build on that; train selected librarians in ethnographic study techniques, and then do a selected departmental data needs ethnographic study in early fall.
- Develop program to educate library staff and the university community on current data programs including: 1) ANDS 2) Polar Research 3) DataCite (has assigned over 800,000 DOIs to datasets & all 12 members have the capacity to register DOIs at this point)
- Train metadata specialists to incorporate DataCite metadata. We could have a Skype workshop with DataCite. *DataCite offers an easy way to connect an article published in a scholarly journal with the underlying data and allows authors to take control of the management and distribution of their research. Additionally, DataCite provides the means for researchers to share and get credit for data sets; establish easier access to research data; increase acceptance of research data as legitimate, citable contributions to the scholarly record; and to support data archiving that permits results to be verified and re-purposed for future study.*

- Plan and host a Science Librarian Boot Camp. (SUMMER 2011) Model after our scholarly communications programs/ARL reinventing science librarianship program. Host on campus, at one of the colleges. Invite local faculty to teach around several science topics. Take tour of labs; work with scientists to learn about their current research. Target audience: educated, non-specialists librarians.
- Work on building knowledge and changing the model for library liaison roles. Librarians should be actively engaged in seeking out opportunities to gather data as a part of collection development roles.
- Include data needs as a part of surveys that the library administers. This can lead into a Data Stewardship report. We might uncover needs big and small.
- Include Data as a part of an upcoming scholarly communication talk. Research in Nature: Proceedings has shown recently that the sharing of detailed research data is associated with increased citation rates. This is a selling point to faculty.
- Promote the use of the Science Commons licensing agreement, as well as, the Creative Commons Zero, which places data in public domain.
- Develop a Data Curation policy. We can have embargos, we can have rules that data must be cited, and specify in what way. There are many ways that the policy can be worded that will increase faculty participation.
- Curation is expensive. It is estimated that data curation may cost as much as 1/3 as the experiment. Foster grant applications around data curation. Internet Archive is saving more bytes per dollar than anyone else. Investigate their financial model.
- Investigate roles that Fondren Library can support citizen science.
- Investigate ways that we can teach data mining in our instruction program.

Takeaways:

The best patrons to nurture may be new faculty and retiring faculty.

Anything worth doing is worth doing well. Anything worth doing is worth doing badly. Just do it. (Prof. Leske, Rutgers)