Assessing Skills, Training, Positions, and Partnership to Support Growing Research Data Management Services Support: Findings from the 2013 ARL SPEC Kit #334

Barbara Pralle, Data Management Services, Johns Hopkins University Sheridan Libraries, bpralle@jhu.edu
Sherry Lake, Research Data Services, University of Virginia Library, shlake@virginia.edu

Key Findings

RDM Service Offering
- Online DMP resources
- DMP consulting
- DMP training
- Other Data Management Training
- Research metadata support
- Data citation support
- Data sharing & access support
- Data archiving by library

Skills and Training
- Ranked as Important Skills
  1. Subject domain expertise 25%
  2. Digital/data curation expertise 60%
  3. IT experience 59%

Background for current positions (n=228)
- MS/MA/SR 75%
  - Data curation emphasis 6%
  - Masters in another domain specialty 27%
  - PhD in another domain specialty 13%

Challenges

Library Referrals Across Campus
- Institutional archives 3%
- Other institutional unit(s) 10%
- General counsel 13%
- IRB/Human Subjects 17%
- Research administration/sponsored research 26%
- Central IT 26%
- Other 1%

Campus-wide Research Data Management Service Support

Staffing: Organization Structure for RDM Services
- Single library department 11%
- Single library position 15%
- Staff from library & other units in inst. 17%
- Staff from 2 or more library departments 51%
- Other structure 6%

Other RDM service(s)
- Help w/ securing & anonymizing data per policies
- Data storage and backup planning
- Data sharing & access
- DM best practices training
- Online resources for DMP preparation
- Helping researchers apply metadata standards
- Research files organization & file naming
- DM best practices via website resources
- Data citation
- Helping researchers identify metadata

Lessons Learned
- Campus wide communication and collaboration enables the possibility of providing a wider range of RDMS services and support
- RDMS services provision requires an investment in human resources and technical infrastructure
- More ongoing engagement with researchers is needed to continue to build awareness and value of RDMS services
- There are lots of opportunities for continued service growth and development by the library and/or in partnership with other campus units
- RDMS service and support models are as diverse as the needs of different campus research environments, no one model fits all situations

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