

A Research-Driven Approach to Providing Research Data Curation Services

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Christopher Eaker
Data Curation Librarian
University of Tennessee Libraries
chris@utk.edu



Chelcie Juliet Rowell
Digital Initiatives Librarian
Z. Smith Reynolds Library
Wake Forest University
rowellcj@wfu.edu

Z. Smith Reynolds Library at Wake Forest University





Where are we now?

- We respond to data curation needs when faculty actively seek support

DMP review

Small data sets in IR

- Little capacity to meet increased needs
- Reluctance to formalize services or perform outreach lest we generate too much demand!



Reactive versus proactive?

“Creative planning is of central importance because of the superiority of planning over merely reacting to events. Funders, providers, & users of library services need to reflect creatively on what we do and why. Planning offers us a chance to create the future.”

Buckland, Michael Keeble. Redesigning Library Services: A Manifesto. Chicago: American Library Association, 1992.



Reactive versus proactive?

“Management that is solely reactive is not effective, but management that is overly proactive is not effective either. When staff are too proactive, this may result in increased expense and distracted staff.”

ITIL (Information Technology Infrastructure Library):
Service Operation.



Research as internal advocacy

Already our campus is looking to ZSR's Digital Scholarship Unit for leadership regarding data curation. The motivation behind my research project is to advocate within my library for a slightly less reactive and slightly more proactive approach to meeting campus research data curation needs.

Aim

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graph TD; Aim[Aim] --> Objectives[Objectives]; Aim --> 2015[2015: Look outward to service models of libraries at peer institutions]; Aim --> 2016[2016: Look inward to data practices of Wake Forest researchers];
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To identify potential research data curation services for Z. Smith Reynolds Library to provide to researchers at Wake Forest University

Objectives

2015:

Look outward to service models of libraries at peer institutions

2016:

Look inward to data practices of Wake Forest researchers

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graph TD; A[ ] --> B[Objectives]; A --> C[Look outward to service models of libraries at peer institutions]; A --> D[ ]; B --> E[Research Questions]; C --> F[What research data curation services are currently being provided by libraries at peer institutions?]; C --> G[What research data curation services are libraries at peer institutions considering implementing?];
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Objectives

Look outward to service models of
libraries at peer institutions

**Research
Questions**

What research data
curation services are
currently being
provided by libraries
at peer institutions?

What research data
curation services are
libraries at peer
institutions
considering
implementing?


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graph TD; A[ ] --> B[Research Questions]; A --> C[What research data curation services are currently being provided by libraries at peer institutions?]; A --> D[What research data curation services are libraries at peer institutions considering implementing?]; B --> E[Data Collection Process]; C --> F[Semi-structured interviews regarding current & aspirational service models, barriers & facilitators, what works, what doesn't, lessons learned, etc.]; D --> F;
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Research Questions

What research data curation services are currently being provided by libraries at peer institutions?

What research data curation services are libraries at peer institutions considering implementing?

Data Collection Process

Semi-structured interviews regarding current & aspirational service models, barriers & facilitators, what works, what doesn't, lessons learned, etc.



How will my research help?

- Advocate within my organization by documenting peer institutions' efforts & challenges to provide data curation services
- Participate in scholarly conversation about right sizing data curation services to different institutions' context & scale

University of Tennessee Libraries





Where are we now?

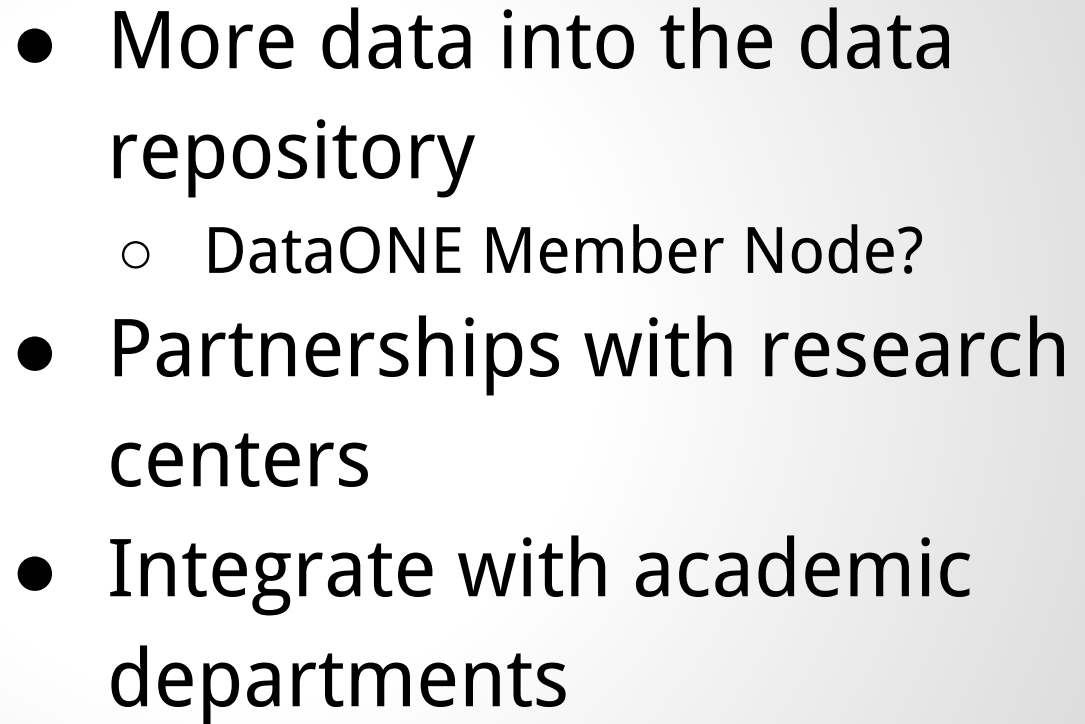
- Data management plan support
 - Consultations
 - Reviews (via DMPTool)
- Data management classes
- Data repository



How did we get here?

- Existing research
- Building relationships
- Building partnerships
- Offering value







How will my research help?

Gathering Information

- Interviews with civil engineering professionals
- What did they learn about info. management?
- Do they feel prepared?



Early observations

- Little to no training in undergraduate curricula
- Learning is mostly on-the-job or self-taught
- Dependence on experienced employees:
 - Wells of institutional knowledge
- Some standardization, but more needed
- Reliance on digital files -- physical not preserved



How will my research help?

Applying the Information

- How can the Libraries help the Dept. of CE?
- Does ABET need to revise their standards?
- Is there a need for continuing education?

Food for Thought

- How can one start the conversation about providing research data curation services?
- What is the role of research by librarians in providing research data curation services?

Contact Us!

Christopher Eaker

chris@utk.edu

Chelcie Juliet Rowell

rowellcj@wfu.edu

[@ararebit](#)