

Data Collection, Discovery and Analysis :: Group activity

September 1, 2014

Introduction:

While research data services in libraries are relatively new and require a lot of work to become established, many other services can provide a useful foundation for their development. Subject librarians, for example, have long been working with various sources of information that include data. Government information, geographic information systems, surveys, statistics, and gene-related data are examples of such sources. In this activity we ask participants to identify and assess existing services and engagements with liaison and subject librarians that can be useful in building research data services.

Objectives:

After completing the assignment and discussing it during the next webinar, members of participating institutions will have a better understanding of existing learning and collaborative opportunities within their libraries; they can also use this exercise to reach out to other units and build upon the existing strengths in developing research data services.

Task:

- Identify liaison and subject librarians that provide services related to existing data and information in specific areas (e.g., science, social sciences, humanities or government, GIS, statistics).
- Create a slide that summarizes existing or emerging responsibilities of liaison / subject librarians and their contributions to data services at your institution. Use the following questions to guide your summaries:
 - Do the liaison librarians provide access to databases that contain data? Access to what kinds of data is currently offered in your library? (e.g., survey and statistical data, GIS, genome and other biological data?)

- How are such data-related services organized? For example, through open access and paid databases, data collection policies, traditional or embedded reference services, publisher or library-improved access, metadata work, and so on.
- What role do visualization and analytics play in subject-oriented services? Do you have successful examples to share?
- What forms of data collaboration and engagement, if any, do liaison / subject librarians use in their work? For example, do they recommend data repositories to authors who submit articles to journals requiring that data be deposited? Do they discuss research data tools in their literacy training?

Deadline:

Please submit your slide by September 10, 2014, by replying to the discussion thread with the slide attached.