Lifecycle of Data Management Best Practices Workshops at the University of Connecticut

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Lifecycle of Data Management Best Practices Workshops at the University of Connecticut

Outcomes
What did we learn from these workshops?
- Students ranked data organization, storage, security, metadata, and DMP plan information as the most important topics.
- Students handle lots of research data, have little formal data management instruction and are very interested in learning more.
- The big general workshop model was useful but too broad and too much info at once.
- More in-depth info on specific topics is needed.
- Instruction focused on needs of particular disciplines optimal.
- Each collaborative partner is willing to participate further.

What is happening as a result of the workshops?
- Developed listserv ManagingData-L for UConn research data community.
- Restructured our Data Management LibGuide to reflect workshop contents and to link to workshop recording and powerpoints.
- Beginning to approach departments to find out specific needs.

Assumptions
- Graduate students have little formal training in data management.
- Graduate students handle research data.
- Best practices information will be of interest.
- A collaborative instructional approach by data support services (Library, UITS, OSP) is more useful than any individual approach.
- A wide range of topics will tell us which resonate with graduate students.

Experts
Library:
- Preservation and Data Management Services Librarian
- Metadata Librarian
- Science Librarian
Office for Sponsored Programs
- Director
University IT
- Computer Security Staff
- Systems Administrator
Endorsement and introduction by the Chief Information Officer for UConn

Content
- Curriculum from the UMass IMLS grants framework.
- Segments on data organization, storage and security, metadata, archiving, sharing of data, and legal concerns.
- Many topics were covered, none in depth.
- Each topic included links for further learning.
- Extensive powerpoint slides available as handouts.
- Highlighted different security concerns for active data gathering stage versus finished data's requirements for sharing access.
- A pre-workshop questionnaire and a post-workshop evaluation provided ample information about student wants and needs.

Data Management LibGuide:
URL: http://classguides.lib.uconn.edu/datamanagement

Audience
The workshop was widely publicized to all graduate students.
Those who attended were:
- Mostly doctoral graduate students
- Mainly in science and social science
- A few faculty and professional staff
- Some library staff

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Jennifer Eustis, Metadata Librarian
David Lowe, Preservation and Data Management Services Librarian

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