

Apr 7th, 2:00 PM

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Donna Kafel
Donna.Kafel@umassmed.edu

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Donna Kafel, "An Update on the New England e-Science Portal for Librarians" (April 7, 2010). *University of Massachusetts and New England Area Librarian e-Science Symposium*. Paper 7.

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AN UPDATE ON THE NEW ENGLAND E-SCIENCE PORTAL FOR LIBRARIANS

By Donna Kafel, MLIS
Project Coordinator

April 7, 2010



This project has been funded by the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract No. N01-LM-6-3508 with the University of Massachusetts Medical School

Funding for e-science portal for librarians to support learning and collaboration provided by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine New England Region

Two major criteria:

- portal content aimed at librarians
- collaborative librarian involvement in the development of the portal (librarian participants from diverse New England research libraries)

Key Portal Staff

Elaine Martin: project administrator

Javier Crespo: liaison to the portal project and the NE Region
Member Libraries and the National Library of
Medicine

Donna Kafel: project coordinator

Bob VanderHart: website manager

Penny Glassman: head of technology initiatives, oversees website
development

Sally Gore: website design advisor

Library School Students:

Andrew Creamer and Myrna Morales (Simmons College)

Jim Schroeder (URI)

Overview of Portal Needs Assessment

- Needs assessment sent to 168 New England libraries and librarians
- 77 respondents
- Respondents serve researchers working in a broad range of science disciplines of life and physical sciences
- 67% of respondents report that they are not currently providing e-science services at their libraries, but 46% have identified e-science opportunities at their libraries
- 3 main needs identified:
 - Online tutorials for both e-science tools and science content
 - Continuing education in different formats
 - Support and collaboration from the library community

Portal Scope Statement

The e-science portal will be a central resource for librarians to learn about and discuss issues related to e-Science, e-Science subject areas, and the impact of e-Science on the profession. The portal will primarily serve librarians and library administrators working in institutions that are generating, sharing, storing, and/or using data for basic scientific, clinical, or translational research in the health, biological, and physical sciences. As such, the portal will bring together resources on education, outreach, and collaboration, best practices, and current events for e-science. The portal will provide librarians with the tools, knowledge, and skills to effectively participate in networked science.

Four Focus Areas of the e-Science portal

- Front page: about us, definition of e-science, explanation of e-science and its relevance to libraries, calendar of events, opportunities
- Educational: tutorials (links to pre-existing information and original tutorials)
- Current Practices: case studies of current projects
- Virtual community: user discussion and collaboration

Ongoing Recruitment for Editorial Team Leaders

Virtual community: need editorial team leaders who can identify and coordinate robust web 2.0 tools and use these tools to foster active discussion among our librarian users – to ultimately promote a virtual community of New England Librarians who are working or interested in e-Science.

Next Steps

- Meeting of the Editorial Team Leaders
- Identification of pre-existing resources for educational content
- Development of original tutorials
- Design portal structure
- Recruitment of Editorial Team Leaders for the Virtual Community

General Discussion

What competencies are needed for e-Science librarians?

Can you identify current science data management projects that are being conducted at New England libraries?

What educational tutorials would you suggest we link to on the e-science portal?