From Idea to Action: Creating a Research Data Services Program at the University of Connecticut

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From Idea to Action
Creating a Research Data Services Program at the University of Connecticut

ABSTRACT
The University of Connecticut Libraries (UCL) has long provided aspects of research data assistance to the UConn community focusing on education, training and consultations. UCL have a history of collaborating with UConn’s central IT, Sponsored Program Services and the Office of the Vice President for Research. Building on these efforts and collaborations, UCL has recently launched our Research Data Services Program in conjunction with building a Research Data Archive to service the needs of the research community. Our work is coming together into a unified set of library services.

Jennifer Eustis, Interim Research Data Librarian & Carolyn Mills, Sciences Librarian

PIECES OF THE PROGRAM

- UCL Data Archive
- Outreach
- ARL eScience Institute
- Consultations
- Strategic Plan
- Workshops
- Research Advisory Group
- Data Management Plan Review
- Collaborations Across Campus

OBJECTIVE

- Rely on collaborations to bring these pieces together into one cohesive program

ASSEMBLING THE PIECES

- DMP Tool online customizations
  - Have also recruited two subject liaisons to serve as DMP Tool Content Managers to help keep customizations current
  - Recent agreement to work with the Office for the Vice President of Research to review DMPs as part of their review of grant proposals
- Staff realignments
- Collaborated with the Office of the Vice President for Research to publicize library services on their website (http://research.uconn.edu/library-services)
- Created one page outreach & marketing fliers
- Created the UCL Data Archive, our research repository
  - Using Fedora and Islandora, this repository can accept any format and is perfect for the variety of research at UConn
  - Developing a funding model for the UCL Data Archive
- Maintaining and developing workshops and trainings on data management
- Integrating our regional campuses

RESULTS

- The making of a Research Data Services Program with the following services:
  - Data management plan assistance
  - Education and training for individuals, small and large groups
  - Consultation services that help researchers discover funding sources, identify appropriate repository options, and provide guidance throughout the data lifecycle
- Data archiving services that ensure long-term preservation and access to research data

CONCLUSIONS

- This program:
  - Aims to help researchers throughout the data lifecycle
  - Builds on present collaborations
  - Will reach out to our regional campuses

LESSONS LEARNED

- Collaboration is a must
- No one person can accomplish all the services surrounding research data that researchers need and will rely on
- You can build it, but they won’t come unless you go get them
- Having the infrastructure, staff, and documentation is not enough. It’s necessary to actively engage with your audience.
- Administration must be on board
- Having your libraries’ administrative support is not just helpful but needed to push the agenda of research data at your institution. Also library administration can advocate for your services with other key administrative offices on campus such as the Office of Research or Sponsored Programs