Creating a campus-wide research data services committee: The good, The bad, and The... Part 2: Launching your collaboration

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Creating a campus-wide research data services committee: The good, The bad, and The…

Part 2
Launching your collaboration

Chris Kollen, University of Arizona
David Minor, UC San Diego Library and
Betty Rozum, Utah State University
Reflections on our experiences in campus-wide collaborations…

- Different models
- Strategies
- Collaboration and program development

Chris Kollen, University of Arizona
David Minor, UC San Diego and
Betty Rozum, Utah State University
Working with a Campus Data Management Committee

University of Arizona’s Experience
University of Arizona

- Land Grant, Doctoral Granting, Carnegie RU/VH (Research 1)
- FY15 - $587M in grant funding
- Faculty - 3,158
- Undergraduates - 33,732
- Graduate Students & 1st Professional Students - 9,356
Campus Data Management and Curation Advisory Committee

- Dean of the Libraries and Vice-President for Research appoint advisory committee
- Members – faculty, librarians, University Information Technology Services (UITS) staff, and Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) staff
- Results?
  - Libraries in collaboration with RDI provide integrated point of service
  - UITS in collaboration with Libraries and RDI develop short and long term strategy to address data storage, data access, and data preservation
  - Create ongoing campus committee to monitor institutional support and develop recommendations for data management services
Campus Data Management Committee was formed in 2012 with faculty, librarians, UITS staff and RDI staff

- Committee reported to Libraries, RDI, and UITS
- Questions, questions!!
- Little political power – who knows we exist?
- How to get the word out to researchers and graduate students about DM services –
  - Need help of library liaisons and RDI!
- What initiatives should we concentrate on?
- What services are needed – who should provide them?
UA hires new Vice-President for Research

- Previous support for researchers was limited and decentralized
- New VPR negotiated more staff for her office to support researchers
  - Research Development Services provides grant proposal assistance for researchers
  - Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) unit beefs up their training offerings including data management

UA Libraries hires new Dean

- Reached out to college deans on library services - for example, presentation to the College of Science department heads
- New Dean negotiated for more library positions – both faculty and staff
Research Computing Governance Committee (RCGC)

- RCGC – guides development of central research computing resources – faculty, librarians, UITS
  - Sponsors: Dean of Libraries, CIO, VPR, Senior VP for Health Sciences
- Move CDMC to RCGC as subcommittee
- Appointed to RCGC – provide feedback and participate in committee wide decisions; bring subcommittee’s initiatives to RCGC for recommendation to sponsors
- As a subcommittee, have broader impact – receive support from a wider community
Subcommittee Initiatives

Developed Research Data Management Survey

- RCGC helped distribute survey
- Survey helped us decide what services need to be developed or enhanced

Developed recommendations

- Continue current services and add the following – data storage, data storage tools, data repository, data documentation and metadata, confidentiality and legal issues
- Push-back from RCGC – too general
- We need more specific recommendations to take to the sponsors for a funding request
Back to the drawing board! Developed specific recommendation with resourcing needs → Data Management and Data Curation Pilot (DMDC)

- RCGC supported overwhelmingly
- RCGC sponsors funded the pilot
- Subgroup implemented – project planning
  - Once we were ready to identify pilot participants, used communications and application system provided by RDI
  - Selected pilot participants
DMDC Pilot

- Pilot started with 6 research groups from a variety of disciplines and at different stages of the research cycle

- Report progress to the Campus Data Management Subcommittee and RCGC

- Work with various groups and individuals on campus as needed
  - Previous connections through the subcommittee and RCGC helped facilitate work on the pilot
New Funding Agency Requirements

- Conversations on how UA should address the new requirements start with Associate VPR, Vice-Dean for Libraries, RDI staff, and several librarians
- Federal Open Access Policies Working Group is appointed and group is given a charge
- Members are from the Libraries and RDI
- Charge is to develop educational resources and promotional strategies in response to the new funding agency requirements
  - Developed website focusing on four top UA funding agencies: NASA, NSF, NIH, and DOE
  - Have presented two informational sessions this semester, will be doing additional sessions next semester
Important to be aware of campus politics – RDI, UITS, colleges/departments

- Some colleges/departments provide a lot of support, others not as much
- Who should you target? Sometimes it takes an advocate in that college or department
Politics (continued)

- What does the library have to offer? How can the library be integrated into support provided by RDI?
- Misunderstandings about who should be responsible for what – technical vs. services; need an understanding of what’s possible!
- Confusion on basic terminology – metadata, data management, data curation, preservation
Conclusion

- Was critical to have campus-wide participation
  - Be part of a larger campus-wide group
- Important to have specific projects/initiatives that committee members care about
- Important to work with others on RDI and UITS on related projects
- Look for other ways to collaborate!
Campus-wide data services:
Working with multiple units at UC San Diego

David Minor
Director, Research Data Curation Program
UC San Diego Library
UC San Diego - Quick Facts

36,000ish enrolled students
  27,000 undergrads
  9,000 graduate students

1500ish faculty

$1.07 billion in research funding
A brief history of our efforts...

2008 - 2009: Research Cyberinfrastructure (RCI) Design Team

- Broad campus participation

- Campus-wide survey of research cyberinfrastructure needs (2008)

- Issued *Blueprint for the Digital University*
  
  https://libraries.ucsd.edu/services/data-curation/_files/Blueprint.pdf
Entities involved in RCI

- Library
- San Diego Supercomputer Center
- CalIT2
- Administrative Computing & Telecommunications
- School of Engineering
- Scripps Institution of Oceanography
- Medical School
- Office of Research Affairs

And a cast of thousands
2009 - 2010: CyberInfrastructure Planning & Operations Committee (CIPOC)

- Developed a business plan with recommendations
- Based on the principle of shared costs between PIs and campus investments
A brief history of our efforts...

2011: *RCI Oversight Committee* charged to implement *something*

- January 2011 - Business plan accepted, oversight committee charged
- Broad campus representation
2011: UCSD Research Cyberinfrastructure (RCI)

A *campus-wide suite of services*

- Data Curation
- Centralized Storage
- High Speed Networking
- Computing
- Data Center Colocation

http://rci.ucsd.edu (no longer there)
• Money was distributed to the partner organizations, to build services, 2011-2014

• We built a lot of cool services

...some people came and used them ....

...but we didn’t get rich and famous.
2014: A BRAND NEW thing!

Integrated Digital Infrastructure - IDI

• Build on the RCI services
• Pay *researchers* to do things with them
• Program in place 2014-2016

http://idi.ucsd.edu (no longer there)
IDI Outcomes

• Money was distributed to some partner organizations, but mostly to researchers

• We supported a lot of cool projects

  ...some people came and used them ....

... we again didn’t get rich and famous.
2016: This year’s BRAND NEW thing!

• Recognition from campus leadership that we’ve “done good work”

• Embedding of budget into organizations
  – Central campus IT - http://research-it.ucsd.edu
  – Library - https://libraries.ucsd.edu/services/data-curation
Parting thoughts

**Pros:**
It was really, really important to get campus-wide participation. It was helpful to get money to fund things.

**Cons:**
People expect to get something for their money. Income often becomes the metric by which success is judged. Funding-based metrics are hard with emerging services.
Campus Wide Data Collaboration @ Utah State University

Betty Rozum
Data Services Coordinator
Utah State University: quick facts

- Land Grant, Doctoral Granting, Carnegie R2
- FY15: $111M in grants
- FY15: 1,125 new projects funded
- Faculty: 788
- Students (headcount):
  - Undergrad: 25,000
  - Grad: 3,300
Data Committee History

- Committee? Task Force? Vague from the start.
  - No real name even!

- Original group started in 2013

- Reinvigorated in 2015

- Initial representation
  - Library, Office
  - Research and Graduate Studies
  - Information Technology
Initial work (2013-2014)

- Reaction to OSTP Memo and a need to find storage solution for data sets and provide assistance for faculty
- Library was to be “Face of Data” for the campus

Accomplishments:
- Implemented DMPTool
- Discussed creation of a data storage policy and fees
- A few joint trainings between Research Office and Library
- Pilot project: deposit data in IR, DigitalCommons@USU
Committee changes (2015)

- Creation of my position (Data Services Coordinator)
- My job: chair committee, help set agenda, direction and goals based on the needs of the stakeholders
- Increased meeting frequency (quarterly, then bimonthly)
“New” Committee: “Data Task Force”

- Our Top Priorities
  - Providing resources for Data Management Planning
  - Tracking and ensuring compliance with Federal Mandates
Providing Resources for Data Management

- Consensus – this is the Library’s territory
- Added to the resources available to the campus
  - LibGuide – more resources
  - Consultation Services
  - Outreach
Tracking & Ensuring Compliance

- Are YOUR researchers doing what they promise to do with their data in the DMPs they submit?
  - It’s essentially a contract your institution enters into with the agency

- This is what kept our VPR up at night

- We needed two things:
  - Research Data Policy
    - What is research data and Who owns the data produced at USU
  - Process to track outputs of research promised to be made publicly available in DMPs
Research Data Policy

- Purpose of the Policy: “To describe the rights and responsibilities or individual researchers and the institution in the use, retention, maintenance, and sharing of data produces as part of research enterprise.”

- I gathered example policies, researched, wrote initial draft

- Research Office (Federal Compliance Manager and Associate VPR) reviewed, edited, “translated” into policy language and format

- Three of us reviewed, edited, presented to entire committee

- Currently under campus review
Research Data Policy

- So What? How was this good for the Library?
  - Sharing data is now in University Policy and encouraged, regardless of funding source
- PUT YOUR DATA in a repository
  - Discipline specific or our IR DigitalCommons@USU
  - If faculty use DigitalCommons@USU, they must abide by our Terms of Deposit
Process for Tracking Compliance

- Develop a process that allows USU to verify and publicly and permanently record that researchers have met the expectations stated in their DMP.

- Subcommittee
  - Associate VPR
  - Data Services Coordinator
  - Director for Research Development
  - Director of Sponsored Programs
  - Library’s Metadata Specialist
  - Systems Analyst for Research Office
Compliance Project

- **Deadline:** implement by Fall 2016

- **Approach:**
  - Meet frequently, report back to larger committee
  - [Meet, discuss, revise, repeat] x5, sandbox, evaluate, [Meet, discuss, revise, repeat]x3, evaluate, present, go live

- Collaborative and cooperative with all parties taking ownership
Compliance Project

- **Importance**: meets a critical need for our campus

- **Library**: verifies data and publication deposits, creates records in IR

- **Sponsored Programs**: sends info to Library, nags researchers

- **Research Office**: able to show data/publications have been deposited (compliance met)

- **Distributed workload, coordinated effort, builds great network on campus**
Biggest Challenges

- No formal committee charge
  - Existence has always been nebulous
    - Work diligently to establish your value and develop strong, enduring relationships
- How to keep connections in the future
  - Committee has now “sun downed”
    - Not necessarily bad!
    - Major tasks accomplished
    - But…How will I keep communication and relationships strong?
    - What happens when I am gone?
Challenges

■ Communication!

■ VBP: Very Busy People!
  ■ Campus leaders have tight schedules
  ■ Must work efficiently and effectively
  ■ Various communication preferences and styles (go through the Administrative Assistant first? Call directly? Email? Voice Mail?)
Challenges

■ New kid on the block

■ Breaking into the world of the Research Office takes time and patience
  ■ Cultural differences
  ■ Perspectives vary – open versus closed/protective of research
Addressing (some) challenges

- Get to know individuals (meet one on one)
- Ask people about their concerns
- Ask questions – from committee members, other librarians, anyone who will help education you about issues, culture, possible solutions
- Recognize that you are part of someone else’s “turf”
Benefits

- Campus connections!!
- Improved visibility, reputation, and value of Library
- Library seen as valued partner
Highly Successful

■ “RGS, IT and the Library are all partners in developing a research data management strategy for campus and I only see our relationships strengthening in the years ahead.” – Mark McLellen, Vice President for Research

■ “We are all friends!” - Eric Hawley, Chief Information Officer
Questions?

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