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Assessment of Data Management Services at New England Region Resource Libraries

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Introduction

This study focuses on sixteen New England medical and biomedical libraries and their plans for developing research data services. Health and science librarians are very interested in providing these types of services but have faced many barriers in funding, personnel and institutional support. Results of this survey show few of these libraries are currently integrating research data management into their libraries' services, but are using available resources to address challenges and barriers.

Methods

Population for this study included the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, New England Region (NER) Resource Libraries. A forty-question online survey looked into these libraries' services and programs for data management education and support. Sixteen of the seventeen NER libraries shared their processes for creating data services and highlighted their institution’s needs and challenges.

Conclusions

Understanding the types of data services that are being delivered atNER libraries helps to inform the NN/LM NER about the e-Science learning needs of New England medical librarians and helps in the planning of professional development programs. This assessment highlights the region’s use of resources provided by the NN/LM NER Regional Medical Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Complete understanding of NER data management services would benefit from future research on the differences between services at hospitals and academic campuses, and what kinds of data these institutions handle, especially if they are concerned with constraints on public health data under Institutional Review Board and HIPAA policies.