Mitosis and the Life Cycle: A Metaphor for the Transformation of the Research Librarian

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**Purpose**
This poster describes how established and traditional library tools and services at an academic health sciences library served as the “nucleus” for new services and collaborations with university researchers.

**Setting**
The Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) formally established a Research and Scholarly Communication Services department in January 2009. The department is currently comprised of two librarians.

**Description**
The Department is charged with overseeing four major areas: scholarly communication; integration of library services into the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) and the research community; the library’s eScience initiative; and the university’s institutional repository, eScholarship@UMMS. The department leveraged existing relationships with GSBS administration and faculty, created through work with eScholarship@UMMS and library services supporting the NIH Public Access Policy, to build credibility, make new contacts, and get feedback on proposed new services.

**Outcomes**

**GSBS**
- Dissertations
- Self-archiving
- Student Publications
- RSS feeds to GSBS site
- Librarians in curriculum and student orientation

**Research Community**
- Researcher web pages
- LibGuides
- Funding mandate support (NIH Public Access Policy)
- Collaborative projects

**Scholarly Communications**
- eJournal
- Author rights, Copyright, Plagiarism
- Open Access advocacy

**Future**
- eScience
- Data sharing and management
- Digitization projects
- Publishing services
- Development of eCollaborative environment

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Figure 1. Institutional repository within the University of Massachusetts Medical School