Developing an e-Science Portal for Librarians to Support Learning and Collaboration

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Developing an e-Science Portal for Librarians to Support Learning and Collaboration
Donna Kafel, Project Coordinator, NN/LM New England Region, University of Massachusetts Medical School

Based upon feedback from an e-Science symposium and a portal needs assessment, librarians wanted a “one-stop shopping” centralized e-Science resource geared towards them.

While e-Science holds promise for accelerating discovery and expanding the reach of research, the rapid generation of immense data sets, evolving digital technologies and lack of standards are ongoing barriers to data access. Recognizing these challenges, research libraries are looking for new models and methodologies for library management of digital research data. Ongoing continuing education and presentation of current data management projects are needed to support effective librarian engagement in e-Science. The New England e-Science Portal for Librarians is a centralized resource developed to meet the ongoing educational, informational, and collaborative needs of New England science and biomedical librarians.

**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 Portal Focus Areas**

- **Front Page**
  - About us
  - Calendar of e-science events
  - Grants, career postings
  - Continuing Education

- **Educational**
  - Sciences
  - Data management
  - Library roles in research support

- **Virtual Community**
  - Promote collaboration among
  - New England Science and Medical Librarians

- **Current Practices**
  - Exposition of library projects and data management methodologies

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**A Collaboration between UMass and other New England Librarians**

Advisory board at meeting from right to left: Rebecca Reznik-Zellen, Tracey Leger-Hornby, Elaine Martin, Beth Schneider, Mary Phelan, Javier Crespo, Howard Silver, Jennifer Woodward, and David Lapeo.

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