Community Data Repositories Working With The Library & University: A Harvard Dataverse Use Case

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1. Purpose

This poster examines the collaboration between an academic library and an open source community data repository to help faculty and affiliated researchers curate, share and archive research data.

2. Brief Description

Harvard Dataverse has been collaborating with Harvard Library, Harvard Medical School, the Center for Astrophysics (CfA), and other groups from the University to provide a data repository solution for sharing, publishing and archiving research data for Harvard faculty and affiliated researchers. This began in 2012, with development and support remaining at IQSS, while Library Technology Services (LTS) now host the repository, and provide support for backups and long term access. This collaboration has expanded the scope of the Dataverse Project (data repository open source software) to better support research data beyond just the social sciences. The Harvard Dataverse team has also worked on providing targeted user support, training, and data curation services to the Harvard community.

3. Outcome

Current and upcoming collaborative projects include:
1. connecting faculty publications with their underlying research data with Harvard’s IR Digital Access to Scholarship at Harvard (DASH);
2. extending dataset metadata support for astronomy with the Center for Astrophysics (CfA) and biomedical with the Harvard Medical School;
3. providing university-wide open data awareness and curation support via the Harvard Open Data Assistance Program (ODAP);
4. making licensed datasets available to the Harvard Community (Harvard Subscription Data Dataverse);
5. helping researchers meet data management plan requirements; and
6. making faculty data widely discoverable in the library catalog (HOLLIS).

4. Evaluation Method

Site metrics to measure if there is an increase in usage, which include new datasets number of file downloads and dataset views.