

2020-01-08

Special Issue: 2019 Research Data Access and Preservation Summit

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Repository Citation

Griffin T, Kati R, Krzton A, Leligdon L. Special Issue: 2019 Research Data Access and Preservation Summit. *Journal of eScience Librarianship* 2019;8(2): e1182. <https://doi.org/10.7191/jeslib.2019.1182>. Retrieved from <https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/jeslib/vol8/iss2/11>

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Journal of eScience Librarianship

putting the pieces together: theory and practice

Editorial

Special Issue: 2019 Research Data Access and Preservation Summit

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Focus

The Journal of eScience Librarianship has partnered with the Research Data Access & Preservation (RDAP) Association for a second year to publish selected conference proceedings. This issue highlights the research presented at the RDAP 2019 Summit and the community it has fostered.

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Keywords: RDAP, librarianship, data management, research data, conference proceedings

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Disclosures: The authors report no conflict of interest.



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Building communities is even harder than you would think. Communities are complex, multifaceted entities composed of any number of key elements. Communities include a variety of groupings; they share a common interest or sentiment; they function effectively when they provide social support; they generate collective social action—and are often formed as a result of action; and maybe most importantly, they allow for community definitions to change and evolve.¹ To build a successful and sustainable community, you must not only incorporate these elements, but also critically engage with their members.

The 2019 RDAP Summit in Miami, FL was a prime example of community-building in action. Over the course of three days, members of the RDAP community shared their values and practices, discussed how we are all impacted by our systems, and critically examined data services from a variety of perspectives, often calling others to action. The engaging presentations, lightning talks, posters, and discussions presented a wealth of information on researcher perspectives, institutional and domain repositories, curation and data services, and how best to engage with the people and data in our world. In this special issue of the *Journal of eScience Librarianship*, we are pleased to highlight some of the exceptional research presented at the 2019 Summit.

Individuals are the heart of every community. This is especially true at the RDAP Summit. Not only do people share their research and scholarship, they also share their experiences and reflections on being part of the RDAP community. This issue includes three commentaries, two from first-time attendees. Uriri identifies the potential of being part of the RDAP community at their first ever academic conference. Oelker also shares their impressions as a first-time attendee and offers insights into how to adapt lessons learned at RDAP to a small liberal arts college environment. In our third commentary, Thielen and Neeser call the community to action and provide concrete recommendations on how we can write more inclusive, diverse, and equitable job postings.

Action is an important focus at RDAP. At every level, RDAP attendees share how they have taken action, to the benefit of the community. In the first of our two *eScience in Action* papers, Harp and Ogborn describe their work in establishing an active research data services collaboration. Secondly, Lee and Atwood report back on the process and effectiveness of holding an RDAP workshop on converting a conference poster or presentation into an article.

1 Brown, Phil. 2005. "Who is the community? What is the community."
https://www.brown.edu/research/research-ethics/sites/brown.edu.research.research-ethics/files/uploads/Who%20is%20the%20community%20-%20Phil%20Brown_0.pdf

Building on both preexisting knowledge and the community's skills, the research presented at the Summit captured ongoing work and also highlighted the new and exciting research being created. Presentations on topics ranging from pedagogy to conservation demonstrated our data services and systems, underscoring how the community evolves to support the needs of the ever-changing data landscape. Each article offers a unique facet of this experience. Gofman's contribution interrogates pedagogical theory driving current instruction norms by comparing the Carpentries and the ACRL Information Literacy frameworks. In the Lorente and Van Tuyl and Farrell et al. papers, curation, access, and reuse of data sets is studied to illustrate the complexities and importance of this work. Norris and Mader present a different case study on data curation, this time looking at big interdisciplinary science data. Lastly, Krzton examines the place of local data collectors in the biodiversity data community and proposes that growing the human infrastructure will be necessary to make the data infrastructure accessible to these important stakeholders.

These papers represent only a small part of the vibrant RDAP community. The Summit's open repository of additional posters and presentation materials is available at <https://osf.io/view/rdap2019>. We also enthusiastically invite you to join us at the 2020 RDAP Summit, March 11-13, 2020 in Santa Fe, NM. This year's theme, "Connecting Through Data," is sure to build on our community connections and illustrate how these connections improve lives and create change. We look forward to seeing you there to continue to build our extraordinary community.

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