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

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