Librarians’ Competencies in Support of E-Research and Scholarly Communication

Iryna Kuchma, Birgit Schmidt, Kathleen Shearer, Pascal Calarco, Rob Grim, Alicia López Medina, Susan Reilly, Judy Ruttenberg, Dominic Tate

July 4, 2014
LIBER 43rd Annual Conference, Riga
Drivers for the Task Force (TF)

Carmen-Gloria Labbe, co-Chair of the COAR Board: Discussion around COAR training in Latin America for repository managers, evolved into competencies, included in COAR Strategic Plan

LIBER, ARL, CARL joined
Outline the competencies needed by librarians in an evolving environment

1. Identify the avenues of service for libraries within the context of e-research, repository management, & scholarly communication
2. Map the services & roles to the competencies required by librarians and library professionals
Charge & scope of TF work (2)

• Note of the array of organizational models evolving to support new services

• Produce a toolkit that will help to build capacity in libraries for supporting new roles
Activities over the last year

• Defining collaboration tools & processes
• Literature review
• Identified E-Research specialization areas
• Gathered job descriptions from web searches
• Wiki/Dropbox/Google Drive for community communication & feedback
• What ‘the toolkit’ might look like – ideas discussed
Challenges

• “E-Research” not used globally; jargon
• Relationships & overlap between specializations, competencies, skills
• Terminology/nomenclature imprecise, variable
• Competencies: hard & soft skills
• Qualifications for competencies based in practice, less in academic programs, although this is evolving
Community feedback

- Task Force relies on feedback from these communities of practice around E-Research Presentations at: CNI (March & April 2014; St. Louis, MO); COAR General Assembly (May 2014, Athens); OR 2014 (June 2014, Helsinki)
- Ideas for venues to connect for other service areas welcome
- Consulting group: advise & provide feedback
Outcomes – Service Areas

Research Data Management (RDM), Scholarly Communications & OA:

• Definition
• Roles involved
• Competencies
• Typical job titles
• Functions / Key results expected
• Related service areas
• Selected literature
Competency areas: RDM

Core competencies:
• Providing access to data
• Advocacy & support for managing data
• Managing data collections
Competency areas: RDM (2)

Related service areas & roles: OA & institutional repositories, collection development, advisory services (copyright, policies, etc.), information literacy, digital curation, digital preservation, digital collections

To work with: Data Creator, Data Scientist, Research Coordinator/Manager, Data Curator, Digital Preservation Librarian, Repository Manager, Subject Librarian
Competency areas: Scholarly Communication & OA

Core competencies:
• Scholarly publishing services
• Copyright & OA advocacy & outreach
• Scholarly resource assessment
Competency areas: Scholarly Communication & OA (2)

Related service areas & roles: Research data management, collection development, advisory services (copyright, policies, etc.), information literacy

To work with: Digital Repository Librarian, Subject Librarian, Digital Initiatives Librarian, Digital Humanities Librarian
Activity Report

Working Group 1: Repository Content

Silvia Nakano

May 21, 2014

COAR General Assembly 2014, Athens, Greece
Outcomes – Service Areas

Digital Humanities (DH):

• Definition
• Typical job titles
• Functions / Key results expected
• Position highlights from postings
• Services
• Training
• Tasks & skills
Outcomes – Service Areas
Discussions with DH practitioners

- Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities
- The Ohio State University
- University of Colorado Libraries DH Task Force
- ACRL Digital Humanities Interest Group
- University of Florida DH Libraries Group
- University of Virginia Scholars Lab
- Gottingen Centre for Digital Humanities
- DARIAH-EU...
Competency areas: DH

Core competencies:

• Scholarly communication & publishing
• Technical services & collection management
• Digital lifecycle information management
• Client engagement & training
Competency areas: DH (2)

Related service areas & roles: Repository Manager, Data Manager & Scholarly Communication Librarian

To work with: Digital Repository Librarian, Subject Librarian, Digital Initiatives Librarian, Digital Humanities Librarian
Work ahead

Reviewing draft profiles & engaging in describing other service areas:

- Digital preservation
- Digital Curation
- Metadata
- Research Support
- Instructional Services
- Repository Management
- Digital Initiatives
- Technology Services
Clustering competencies/specializations

- Identifying areas of overlap
- Probably aggregate areas that are very close in competencies/roles
- Both technical “hard” skills & communication/organization “soft” skills
- An imperfect art & each service area continues to evolve
Work ahead (3)

Developing an online toolkit that will allow library managers
• to identify skill gaps in their institution;
• form the basis of job descriptions/announcements;
• enable professionals to carry out self-assessments;
• act as a foundation for the development of training programs for librarians/library professionals.
Work ahead (4)

In addition, the toolkit will provide an outline of new organizational models for libraries.
What might the toolkit look like?

- Web-based
- A portal?
- An aggregation of documents and web resources?
- A guide for developing new positions for specific needs?
- Audience: administrators, practitioners, others
Feedback & questions

Iryna Kuchma, irdna.kuchma@eifl.net
Birgit Schmidt, bschmidt@sub.uni-goettingen.de
Kathleen Shearer, kathleen.shearer@coar-repositories.org

https://www.coar-repositories.org/activities/support-and-training/task-force-competencies/