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



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CARLABRC

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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



Charge & scope of TF work

Outline the competencies needed by librarians in an evolving environment

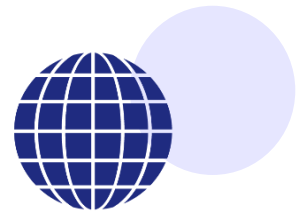
1. Identify the avenues of service for libraries within the context of e-research, repository management, & scholarly communication
2. Map the services & roles to the competencies required by librarians and library professionals



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

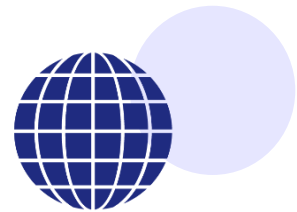
- Task Force relies on feedback from these communities of practice around E-Research Presentations at: CNI (March & April 2014; St. Louis, MO); COAR General Assembly (May 2014, Athens); OR 2014 (June 2014, Helsinki)
- Ideas for venues to connect for other service areas welcome
- Consulting group: advise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



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



Work ahead (2)

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

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

