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Collaborating to Improve Collaboration: Informationist Team Support for an Interdisciplinary Research Group

Item Type	Poster
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DOI	10.13028/km11-sn94
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Download date	2024-12-26 05:35:08
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Link to Item	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14038/28639



Collaborating to Improve Collaboration:

Informationist Team Support for an Interdisciplinary Research Group.

Margaret Henderson, Research Data Management, VCU Libraries; Julie Arendt and Martha Roseberry, Academic Outreach, James Branch Cabell Library; John Cyrus and Karen Gau, Research and Education, Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences

Informationist Team

Liaisons:

School of Medicine, Biomedical Engineering, Mathematics

Research Data Management

Research Team

2 Pls

Mathematics

Biomedical Engineering

Collaborators

School of Medicine

Off-campus faculty

Graduate and Undergraduate Students

The Informationist Team hopes to show that this model, utilizing the skills of multiple librarians, is a viable way to support the increasing number of interdisciplinary and interprofessional research groups at the university who need help from embedded librarians. By working as a group, the Informationist Team is able to help in many new roles.

So far:

- Literature searching: extended searching to multiple subject databases, strengthened PubMed searching, especially in areas of imaging and mathematical modeling
- Citation management: help with Zotero
- General library help: finding protocols, books, articles, etc.
- Data management: interviewed team members, developed basic metadata form for research folders, working to add form to all folders
- Attend lab meetings to receive and answer questions as they come up.
- Presented on data visualization for Journal Club.

Survey Results

After 1 Year (n=7)

- 5 of 7 had worked with Informationists, found what they needed, and saved time.
- "Having someone who knows database searching helped save me time."
- "Found Sources I may not have otherwise."

Changes from Pre-Survey (n=3)

- Moved from school server to cloud for storage of data, documents, etc.
- Recognized data management as important to work.

Traditional Roles

- Help with literature search.
- Help find journals for submission.
- Help format bibliography.

Additional Informationist Roles

- Help with Data Management Plan and funder compliance.
- Help set up and teach group citation management tool
- Teach students, staff, etc. about research data management.
- Help set up and maintain research data organization.
- Help with data analysis and visualization.
- Find data repositories.
- Make sure sharing is tied to ORCID and keep track of altmetrics.
- Find data for reuse.

