

Hybrid Data Services Librarians: A concept for integrating a data services librarian into an existing role

Zachary W. Painter
Claire T. Carney Library

Introduction

Data Services Librarians are an *en vogue* position for academic libraries today, however not every library has the means or personnel to dedicate a single individual to the role.

In lieu of that, there is the potential for a librarian to take on the role of Data Services, without compromising other needed library roles. Ample community support, tools, and trainings, are readily available; a selection of which are displayed here.



Objectives

Our objective is to demonstrate how to incorporate a data services librarian role into another role for a library, often where staff or workload limitations are prohibitive for hiring a specialist. The hybrid of Data Service Librarian and another role need not be as explicit as designed here; other combinations can exist depending on the needs of the institution.



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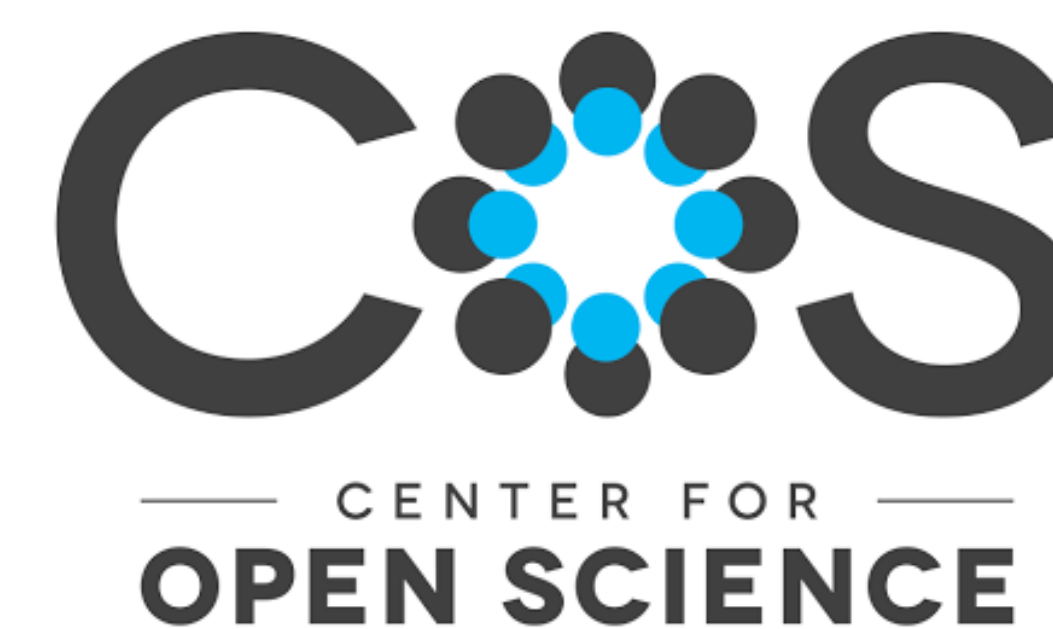


Methods

An R2 university, which until recently was not a DRU, attempted to combine a traditional research and instruction liaison role to a subject specialty and a new data services role.

The university, needing a subject specialist for a prominent set of disciplines, but also needing a librarian to handle the new demand (or expectation) for data services, combined the two roles into one position.

Changes were made to the role of the outgoing librarian to accommodate the new data services role, while an essential body for handling reference and instruction services was not lost to the department.



Results

The initial structuring of duties has been managed without many problems. Selecting facets of data services to provide to the campus, rather than trying to contribute the entire corpus of data services, has effectively managed the workload of one staff member who also works normal reference, instruction, and liaison shifts within the library.

Conclusions

Libraries with limited staffing abilities need not fear the inability to hire a full time data services librarian, so long as someone on the staff is willing to take the responsibility if required.

The distribution of labor, while perhaps an addition to the workload of a staff member, need not be arduous or difficult provided that the individual(s) have a clear plan for how to provide the needed services for a campus.



References

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Contact

Zachary W. Painter, Engineering & Data Services Librarian
zpainter@umassd.edu