Creating a campus-wide research data services committee: The good, The bad, and The…

Part 2
Launching your collaboration

Chris Kollen, University of Arizona
David Minor, UC San Diego Library and
Betty Rozum, Utah State University
Reflections on our experiences in campus-wide collaborations…

- Different models
- Strategies
- Collaboration and program development

Chris Kollen, University of Arizona
David Minor, UC San Diego and
Betty Rozum, Utah State University
Working with a Campus Data Management Committee
University of Arizona’s Experience
University of Arizona

- Land Grant, Doctoral Granting, Carnegie RU/VH (Research 1)
- FY15 - $587M in grant funding
- Faculty - 3,158
- Undergraduates - 33,732
- Graduate Students & 1st Professional Students - 9,356
Campus Data Management and Curation Advisory Committee

- Dean of the Libraries and Vice-President for Research appoint advisory committee
- Members – faculty, librarians, University Information Technology Services (UITS) staff, and Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) staff
- Results?
  - Libraries in collaboration with RDI provide integrated point of service
  - UITS in collaboration with Libraries and RDI develop short and long term strategy to address data storage, data access, and data preservation
  - Create ongoing campus committee to monitor institutional support and develop recommendations for data management services
Stand-alone Campus Committee

Campus Data Management Committee was formed in 2012 with faculty, librarians, UITS staff and RDI staff

- Committee reported to Libraries, RDI, and UITS
- Questions, questions!!
- Little political power – who knows we exist?
- How to get the word out to researchers and graduate students about DM services –
  - Need help of library liaisons and RDI!
- What initiatives should we concentrate on?
- What services are needed – who should provide them?
Campus changes

UA hires new Vice-President for Research
- Previous support for researchers was limited and decentralized
- New VPR negotiated more staff for her office to support researchers
  - Research Development Services provides grant proposal assistance for researchers
  - Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) unit beefs up their training offerings including data management

UA Libraries hires new Dean
- Reached out to college deans on library services - for example, presentation to the College of Science department heads
- New Dean negotiated for more library positions – both faculty and staff
Research Computing Governance Committee (RCGC)

- RCGC – guides development of central research computing resources – faculty, librarians, UITS
  - Sponsors: Dean of Libraries, CIO, VPR, Senior VP for Health Sciences
- Move CDMC to RCGC as subcommittee
- Appointed to RCGC – provide feedback and participate in committee wide decisions; bring subcommittee’s initiatives to RCGC for recommendation to sponsors
- As a subcommittee, have broader impact – receive support from a wider community
Subcommittee Initiatives

Developed Research Data Management Survey
- RCGC helped distribute survey
- Survey helped us decide what services need to be developed or enhanced
- Developed recommendations
  - Continue current services and add the following – data storage, data storage tools, data repository, data documentation and metadata, confidentiality and legal issues
  - Push-back from RCGC – too general
  - We need more specific recommendations to take to the sponsors for a funding request
Data Management and Data Curation Pilot

Back to the drawing board! Developed specific recommendation with resourcing needs → Data Management and Data Curation Pilot (DMDC)

- RCGC supported overwhelmingly
- RCGC sponsors funded the pilot
- Subgroup implemented – project planning
  - Once we were ready to identify pilot participants, used communications and application system provided by RDI
  - Selected pilot participants
DMDC Pilot

- Pilot started with 6 research groups from a variety of disciplines and at different stages of the research cycle

- Report progress to the Campus Data Management Subcommittee and RCGC

- Work with various groups and individuals on campus as needed
  - Previous connections through the subcommittee and RCGC helped facilitate work on the pilot
New Funding Agency Requirements

- Conversations on how UA should address the new requirements start with Associate VPR, Vice-Dean for Libraries, RDI staff, and several librarians
- Federal Open Access Policies Working Group is appointed and group is given a charge
- Members are from the Libraries and RDI
- Charge is to develop educational resources and promotional strategies in response to the new funding agency requirements
  - Developed website focusing on four top UA funding agencies: NASA, NSF, NIH, and DOE
  - Have presented two informational sessions this semester, will be doing additional sessions next semester
Politics

- Important to be aware of campus politics – RDI, UITS, colleges/departments
  - Some colleges/departments provide a lot of support, others not as much
  - Who should you target? Sometimes it takes an advocate in that college or department
Politics (continued)

- What does the library have to offer? How can the library be integrated into support provided by RDI?
- Misunderstandings about who should be responsible for what – technical vs. services; need an understanding of what’s possible!
- Confusion on basic terminology – metadata, data management, data curation, preservation
Conclusion

- Was critical to have campus-wide participation
  - Be part of a larger campus-wide group
- Important to have specific projects/initiatives that committee members care about
- Important to work with others on RDI and UITS on related projects
- Look for other ways to collaborate!
Campus-wide data services: Working with multiple units at UC San Diego

David Minor
Director, Research Data Curation Program
UC San Diego Library
36,000ish enrolled students
  27,000 undergrads
  9,000 graduate students

1500ish faculty

$1.07 billion in research funding
A brief history of our efforts...

2008 - 2009: Research Cyberinfrastructure (RCI) Design Team

- Broad campus participation

- Campus-wide survey of research cyberinfrastructure needs (2008)

- Issued *Blueprint for the Digital University*

  https://libraries.ucsd.edu/services/data-curation/_files/Blueprint.pdf
Entities involved in RCI

- Library
- San Diego Supercomputer Center
- CalIT2
- Administrative Computing & Telecommunications
- School of Engineering
- Scripps Institution of Oceanography
- Medical School
- Office of Research Affairs

And a cast of thousands
A brief history of our efforts...

2009 - 2010: CyberInfrastructure Planning & Operations Committee (CIPOC)

- Developed a business plan with recommendations
- Based on the principle of shared costs between PIs and campus investments
2011: RCI Oversight Committee charged to implement *something*

- January 2011 - Business plan accepted, oversight committee charged
- Broad campus representation
2011: UCSD Research Cyberinfrastructure (RCI)

A campus-wide suite of services

• Data Curation
• Centralized Storage
• High Speed Networking
• Computing
• Data Center Colocation

http://rci.ucsd.edu (no longer there)
RCI Outcomes

• Money was distributed to the partner organizations, to build services, 2011-2014

• We built a lot of cool services

...some people came and used them ....

...but we didn’t get rich and famous.
Integrated Digital Infrastructure - IDI

• Build on the RCI services
• Pay *researchers* to do things with them
• Program in place 2014-2016

http://idi.ucsd.edu (no longer there)
IDI Outcomes

• Money was distributed to some partner organizations, but mostly to researchers

• We supported a lot of cool projects

  ...some people came and used them ....

... we again didn’t get rich and famous.
2016: This year’s BRAND NEW thing!

- Recognition from campus leadership that we’ve “done good work”

- Embedding of budget into organizations
  - Central campus IT - http://research-it.ucsd.edu
  - Library - https://libraries.ucsd.edu/services/data-curation
Parting thoughts

**Pros:**
It was really, really important to get campus-wide participation. It was helpful to get money to fund things.

**Cons:**
People expect to get something for their money. Income often becomes the metric by which success is judged. Funding-based metrics are hard with emerging services.
Campus Wide Data Collaboration @ Utah State University
Betty Rozum
Data Services Coordinator
Utah State University: quick facts

- Land Grant, Doctoral Granting, Carnegie R2
- FY15: $111M in grants
- FY15: 1125 new projects funded
- Faculty: 788
- Students (headcount):
  - Undergrad: 25,000
  - Grad: 3,300
Data Committee History

- Committee? Task Force? Vague from the start.
  - No real name even!

- Original group started in 2013

- Reinvigorated in 2015

- Initial representation
  - Library, Office
  - Research and Graduate Studies
  - Information Technology
Initial work (2013-2014)

- Reaction to OSTP Memo and a need to find storage solution for data sets and provide assistance for faculty
- Library was to be “Face of Data” for the campus

Accomplishments:
- Implemented DMPTool
- Discussed creation of a data storage policy and fees
- A few joint trainings between Research Office and Library
- Pilot project: deposit data in IR, DigitalCommons@USU
Committee changes (2015)

- Creation of my position (Data Services Coordinator)
- My job: chair committee, help set agenda, direction and goals based on the needs of the stakeholders
- Increased meeting frequency (quarterly, then bimonthly)
“New” Committee: “Data Task Force”

■ Our Top Priorities
  ■ Providing resources for Data Management Planning
  ■ Tracking and ensuring compliance with Federal Mandates
Providing Resources for Data Management

- Consensus – this is the Library’s territory

- Added to the resources available to the campus
  - LibGuide – more resources
  - Consultation Services
  - Outreach
Tracking & Ensuring Compliance

- Are YOUR researchers doing what they promise to do with their data in the DMPs they submit?
  - It’s essentially a contract your institution enters into with the agency

- This is what kept our VPR up at night

- We needed two things:
  - Research Data Policy
    - What is research data and Who owns the data produced at USU
  - Process to track outputs of research promised to be made publicly available in DMPs
Research Data Policy

- Purpose of the Policy: “To describe the rights and responsibilities or individual researchers and the institution in the use, retention, maintenance, and sharing of data produces as part of research enterprise.”

- I gathered example policies, researched, wrote initial draft

- Research Office (Federal Compliance Manager and Associate VPR) reviewed, edited, “translated” into policy language and format

- Three of us reviewed, edited, presented to entire committee

- Currently under campus review
Research Data Policy

■ So What? How was this good for the Library?
  ■ Sharing data is now in University Policy and encouraged, regardless of funding source
  ■ PUT YOUR DATA in a repository
    ■ Discipline specific or our IR DigitalCommons@USU
    ■ If faculty use DigitalCommons@USU, they must abide by our Terms of Deposit
Process for Tracking Compliance

- Develop a process that allows USU to verify and publicly and permanently record that researchers have met the expectations stated in their DMP.

- Subcommittee
  - Associate VPR
  - Data Services Coordinator
  - Director for Research Development
  - Director of Sponsored Programs
  - Library’s Metadata Specialist
  - Systems Analyst for Research Office
Compliance Project

■ Deadline: implement by Fall 2016

■ Approach:
  ■ Meet frequently, report back to larger committee
  ■ [Meet, discuss, revise, repeat] x5, sandbox, evaluate, [Meet, discuss, revise, repeat] x3, evaluate, present, go live

■ Collaborative and cooperative with all parties taking ownership
Compliance Project

- **Importance:** meets a critical need for our campus

- **Library:** verifies data and publication deposits, creates records in IR

- **Sponsored Programs:** sends info to Library, nags researchers

- **Research Office:** able to show data/publications have been deposited (compliance met)

- Distributed workload, coordinated effort, builds great network on campus
Biggest Challenges

- No formal committee charge
  - Existence has always been nebulous
    - Work diligently to establish your value and develop strong, enduring relationships

- How to keep connections in the future
  - Committee has now “sun downed”
    - Not necessarily bad!
    - Major tasks accomplished
    - But…How will I keep communication and relationships strong?
    - What happens when I am gone?
Challenges

- Communication!

- VBP: Very Busy People!
  - Campus leaders have tight schedules
  - Must work efficiently and effectively
  - Various communication preferences and styles (go through the Administrative Assistant first? Call directly? Email? Voice Mail?)
Challenges

- New kid on the block
- Breaking into the world of the Research Office takes time and patience
  - Cultural differences
  - Perspectives vary – open versus closed/protective of research
Addressing (some) challenges

- Get to know individuals (meet one on one)
- Ask people about their concerns
- Ask questions – from committee members, other librarians, anyone who will help education you about issues, culture, possible solutions
- Recognize that you are part of someone else’s “turf”
Benefits

- Campus connections!!
- Improved visibility, reputation, and value of Library
- Library seen as valued partner
Highly Successful

“RGS, IT and the Library are all partners in developing a research data management strategy for campus and I only see our relationships strengthening in the years ahead.” – Mark McLellen, Vice President for Research

“We are all friends!” - Eric Hawley, Chief Information Officer
Questions?

Chris Kollen, University of Arizona - kollen@email.arizona.edu
David Minor, UC San Diego Library - dminor@ucsd.edu
Betty Rozum, Utah State University - betty.rozum@usu.edu