Session 2: Research Information Infrastructure

Supporting the research process: Challenges and opportunities facing librarians

Wendy White
Faculty Librarian and Institutional Repository Manager
University of Southampton, whw@soton.ac.uk

Chris Middleton
Head of Academic Services
University of Nottingham, c.middleton@nottingham.ac.uk
Programme

- Introduction to the cultural web as applied to the research process [15 mins]
- The future: where do librarian’s fit in? [Workshop – 20 mins]
- How can we help? [20 mins]
- Skills analysis [Workshop – 15 mins]
- Skills summary [10 mins]
- Discussion [10 mins]
The Cultural Web

Routines and rituals
- Daily behaviour
- Actions

Organisational Structure
- Competitive
- Collaborative

Control systems
- Financial
- Quality systems

Stories
- Events
- People

Symbols
- Visual representations
- Dress codes
- Logos
- Workspace

Power
- Influence
- Distribution

Paradigm

The research process is for researchers

Routines and rituals
- Grant applications
- Sabbaticals
- Peer-review
- Committees, conferences
- Researching, investigating
- Authoring

Organisational Structure
- Based around disciplines/groups of disciplines
- Research group as key unit
- Local databases and sources of information to support decision making

Control systems
- RAE, funding councils and other funders’ processes
- Government policy
- Publishers’ policies
- Ethics and other committees

Stories
- Maverick researcher beholden to nobody
- I would have time to write a paper this year if I hadn’t had to document my every move
- I got my research grant over a pint in the pub

Symbols
- Hermit in office
- Suits for decision makers/management
- Casual wear for active researchers
- Computer user – science
- Book reader - humanities

Power
- Devolved
- Influence gained through research income generation
- 1-2-1 contacts, networks

Maverick researcher

Based around disciplines/groups of disciplines

Local databases and sources of information to support decision making

RAE, funding councils and other funders’ processes

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Devolved

Influence gained through research income generation

1-2-1 contacts, networks

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I got my research grant over a pint in the pub
The future: where do librarians fit in?

Workshop session
The research process is for all

**Routines and rituals**
- Collaboration
- Assistance with bidding process
- Involvement in data frameworks, research dissemination, etc

**Organisational Structure**
- Library involvement in models to support interdisciplinary working.
- Central integrated databases to support research management.
- Library key role in shaping information and IT infrastructure – knowledge management

**Control systems**
- Researchers increase control of dissemination
- Librarians as expert enablers - shared infrastructure, policy development and copyright.
- Role of ethics, development of access models, esp. data.
- REF – librarians key

**Stories**
- I have written 2 papers this year and I have had to document my every move
- I got my research grant as part of a multi-skilled team of colleagues

**Symbols**
- Collaborative spaces/networks – virtual and physical
- Peer working with library staff, valuing specific areas of expertise. Tipping point shift to e-environment base for almost all researchers, librarians for access management, digital content development, etc.

**Power**
- 1-2-1 contacts developing into more complex networks.
- Active alliances e.g. with funders, researchers in other institutions, librarians part of alliances.

Librarians as advocates and facilitators – partnership with researchers and funders.

Librarians as expert enablers - shared infrastructure, policy development and copyright.

Role of ethics, development of access models, esp. data.

REF – librarians key
How can we help?

- Identifying partners
- Providing pathways to information
- Encouraging collaborative working
- Facilitating dissemination
- Supporting research assessment
Identifying partners

Through citations:
- ISI products: HighlyCited.com, in-cites,
- SCOPUS TopCited: http://www.topcited.com

Through scholar profiles:
- ResearcherID.com [ISI]
- Community of Science: COS Expertise, COS Scholar Universe

Using bibliographic databases:
- General keyword search to identify active researchers
- Faceted results by author, by institution
Providing pathways to information

Promoting effective searching

- Information skills training
- High visibility of quality resources
  - Local gateways
    - Subject based lists
    - Federated searches
  - Pervasive linking technology
    - OpenURL, SFX
- Provision of “value-added” functionality
  - saved searches, alerts, RSS feeds
  - personalisation, tagging, ratings

Removing barriers

- Minimum click counts
- Single sign-on, IP address recognition, proxy servers, Athens/Shibboleth
Encouraging collaborative working

Communication
- Blogs: researcher to researcher, library updates
- Microblogs: exchange of quick and frequent information: Twitter
- Instant messaging: MSN, Skype

Shared research
- References: EndNote Web, Connotea, RefShare
- Bookmarks: Del.icio.us, iBreadcrumbs

Collaborative authoring
- Google Docs
- Wikis: Confluence, Wikispaces

Social networks
- Facebook, Elgg
- SciVee (multimedia social research tool)
Facilitating dissemination

Providing journal ranking information

Supporting Open Access options
  - Institutional repositories
  - OA publishers
  - funding to cover Article Processing Charges

Web based publishing
  - YouTube
  - SciVee

Advising on Intellectual Property Rights
  - Copyright
  - Licences
  - Contracts
Supporting research assessment

- Involvement at publication stage
  - Impact factors
  - Open access and citation tools - H-index, institutional repository statistics
  - Sharing experience of changes in scholarly communications – role of editors

- Validating and organising research data
  - To have institutionally gathered picture of research activity
  - For research management and re-use of data

- Developing metrics
  - Tools for analysis of research volume and impact

- Creating a new research infrastructure
  - Linking institutional data systems more effectively
What skills are required?

Workshop session
Key points

- Responsive – changing requirements and technologies
- Content – knowledge of resources
- Integration
- Skills – developing
- Flexibility – variety of approaches
- Collaboration – with Schools/IT
- Technology – experiment
- Commitment – learning process