eResearch Implementation Committee

Meeting Notes

February 12, 2014

Present: Bethany Anderson, Susan Braxton, Peg Burnette, Harriett Green, Karen Hogenboom (recorder), Laila Moustafa, Beth Sandore, Christie Wiley, Sarah Williams (chair)

1. Report on assessment of research data service interactions

Sarah W. met with Jen-chien Yu on Monday to talk about the simplest way to get the data we need to report to stakeholders. Jen suggested that we talk to the Reference Services Committee about adding a question type or two to the drop-down list in Desktracker, so that data interactions could be captured wherever they happened in the library. If we wanted separate categories for finding and using data vs. research data services, we would need two question types. We could also create a separate tab in Desktracker for data transactions in order to capture more detailed information.

The committee discussed several variations on these ideas:

A. We could rely on the text descriptions in Desktracker to identify data-related questions, but this would be prohibitively time-consuming as there is no way to search for “data” without also pulling up “database.”

B. If we created a separate tab in Desktracker, the interactions recorded there would not be recorded on the main Desktracker page. Results from both pages would need to be combined to come up with an accurate total. It is early days to start tracking detailed statistics in this way. As Research Data Service develops, a separate form may be useful.

C. Data could be a subject choice in Desktracker, with an additional pop-up to ask for the more detailed information we are interested in, like whether the consultation took place before or after a grant was received. This creates reporting problems, as the pop-up creates a separate line when a Desktracker report is generated.

D. The distinction between statistics and data and between finding data and managing data can be addressed in training for the statistics vs. data distinction. One data category in the question type list on the main Desktracker page will work for general library transactions. The Scholarly Commons will still use its service type distinctions to separate finding data questions from research data questions. Tracking research data services separately library-wide could create ambiguity because researchers may not know that they are using the Research Data Service, and interactions may be about both finding data and managing data.

E. In order to get a complete picture of data-related interactions across the library, librarians will need to enter office-based consultations in Desktracker. Since September 2012, the Scholarly Commons recorded nineteen data management questions in Desktracker, and 169 data services/finding data questions. Sarah W. searched the Description field and identified about 6 data management interactions outside of the Scholarly Commons in 2013.
Susan will pull Desktracker data for 2013 and review for additional research data interactions. Sarah W. will talk to the Reference Services Committee about adding a single category for data questions to the question type drop-down in Desktracker. This category will include both finding data and research data services. Individuals will also be encouraged to use the Description field to record more detailed information about the research data interaction.

2. Update on potential partnership with other CIC libraries to provide research data services

Beth reported that we have been in conversations with University of Chicago, University of Michigan and Purdue about offering research data services in partnership. Purdue initiated the conversation thinking that the collaboration could be based around their PURR repository. A one-day meeting was proposed to talk about priorities, but there hasn’t been movement on planning this meeting. Beth is talking separately with the University of Michigan about possible collaborations.

3. Announcements

A group is coming from the National Technological University of Singapore on March 7. We will have an informal conversation with them about research data services, what we are doing and planning, and what they are doing and planning.

The March Research Data Services Interest Group meeting will be on March 14 from 1-2:30 in Main Library 314. The topic will be the new version of the DMPTool; although it will not be released we will spend the time planning for the customizations we would like to make once the tool is rolled out in June. Sarah W. will divide the federal grant programs into rough subject areas and attendees will split into groups by subject to talk about customization. Committee members will be facilitators for these groups.

Sarah W. will send out a request to identify data-related conferences that take place during the second half of this year, and we will do another request for funding.

The GIS Specialist candidates are coming to campus the last week of February and first week of March. Please come to whatever meetings you are invited to and give your feedback about this data-related position.