eResearch Implementation Committee

Meeting Notes

April 30, 2014

Present: Bethany Anderson, Susan Braxton, Harriett Green, Tom Habing, Karen Hogenboom (recorder), Laila Moustafa, Kyle Rimkus, Sarah Shreeves, Christie Wiley, Sarah Williams (chair)

Guest: Jason Heldreth

1. Updates and announcements
   a. The conference funding request for the second half of 2014 was revised and submitted last week
   b. Karen is writing help language for the DeskTracker data question type
   c. Sarah S and Sarah W are working on hub training about research data
   d. The committee’s next meeting will be on 5/21 and the time might be shifted slightly so we can go to John Wilkins’s open meeting
   e. Kyle reported that we are talking to NCSA about them providing storage for Research Data Services and the library’s digital preservation archive.

2. Demo of Researcher Data Portal (Tom Habing)

This portal organizes the data for a researcher’s projects and subprojects by means of a folder system. Each project has an EZID, and projects entered into the system sync with Purdue’s EZID service. ORCID IDs could be incorporated as well. Data can be loaded into the portal or linked to if it is stored elsewhere on the Internet. Data can be public or private. The back end of the portal is an SQL database on a library server, for now. The portal can be working storage for campus researchers.

Concerns were expressed about connection and overlap with other repositories, including IDEALS and XSEDE. The campus Research Data Services group needs to talk about the repository aspects of the portal.

Tom will send out the URL to this group for testing, and once we have looked at it and given feedback it will go live. The EZID functionality will be ready soon, and the repository functions will come later.

3. Discussion about Data report from Library Unretreat in January

Committee members commented on the work that is already being done in some of the areas where the report suggests that we start work. For example, for Goal 1 the Research Data Services Interest Group has been meeting monthly for a year to talk with librarians who are not data librarians about the issues surrounding research data, in order to raise their comfort level talking to their patrons about these issues. A more programmatic approach has been waiting on the arrival of the Director of Research Data Services. Also under Goal 1, the training offered under the New England Collaborative
Data Management Curriculum was mentioned as a resource. And finally, the current Research Data Management workshop taught by Sarah Shreeves and Sarah Williams is being divided into smaller topics that can be covered in more detail. This effort is being coordinated with the Data Services Committee, which is developing additional workshops on data information literacy topics.

The Executive Committee has a template of core roles and responsibilities for subject specialist librarians that includes recruiting research data: http://www.library.illinois.edu/committee/exec/supplement/s2011-2012/Template_MenuofCoreRolesandResponsibilitiesSubjectSpecialistLibrarians.html. Individual librarians or positions could have a more robust role in research data management as well, and data specialists are available to help. The library cannot offer discipline-specific training on research data management, but there are training opportunities at disciplinary conferences and other non-library venues.

The comments in the Unretreat Report about the vague scope of Research Data Services are accurate, but we should not be more specific until the Director is in place in order to avoid constraining that person. It is appropriate for this committee to provide input on this issue, but not appropriate for us to make decisions on our own.

Sarah Williams will draft a response to the report and send to the committee for comments.