Curation and Policy Issues in Collaborative Research Data Management Communities: Perspectives from Key Stakeholders

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ABSTRACT
The explosion of scientific data in recent years has resulted in the need to compile, store and globally share this research information with the multi-disciplinary communities of science. This has resulted in research data management communities that are responsible for curating data within institutional repositories. This panel is sponsored by the SIG Scientific and Technical Information to initiate a discussion addressing data curation issues as they pertain to collaborative research data management communities within the current institutional research environment from the perspective of key stakeholders. The panel objective encompasses an examination of contemporary curation practices and data management policy issues that impact the initiation and implementation of research data management plans for scientific researchers. In addition it will explore the role that institutional repositories play in the extraction, preservation, and storage of research data while providing access to data sharing in the global scientific research communities. The panel will be comprised of key institutional stakeholders, which include university administrators, information professionals, and research scientists.

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ASIST 2014, November 1-4, 2014, Seattle, WA, USA.

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Keywords
Data curation, data policy, research data management community, repositories, key stakeholders.

INTRODUCTION
Traditionally, the primary communication channel of research scientists was the scholarly journal but recently with the advent of repositories, this has changed the research landscape. The research data management communities require a collaborative effort by a diverse set of actors from different disciplinary cultures and practices. Some scientists work as curators and are actively involved curating research data in both institutional and national repositories. In 2010, the National Science Foundation mandated all scientists, which are supported by federal funds, to construct research data management plans as part of their methodology. This scientific data, compiled by research scientists, are increasingly becoming stored in repositories. Data curation within the institutional repository environment has engaged an important role in the research data management community.

The profession of data curation, a relatively new field, plays a vital role supporting the research data management infrastructure. Data curators, within the research data management community, are charged with the formidable task of organizing the explosion of scientific data that contributes to the ever expanding scientific knowledge base. Data curation does not have a set of national best practices or standards although some iSchools have curation certification programs in place. The panel participants will be able to address, from a stakeholder’s perspective, the issues facing data curation and hopefully discuss the feasibility regarding the creation of a national set of data curation best practices and standards.

We have identified three sets of key stakeholders in the research data management communities that are concerned with data curation and policy issues: Administrators, information professionals, which include library practitioners, and research scientists. Institutional administrators, as key stakeholders, play a pivotal role concerning the initiation and implementation of digital repositories at research institutions. They are responsible for mandating data policy initiatives, championing the sponsorship of repositories at research institutions. Two institutional barriers that impact repository development are funding and organizational structures associated with research institutions. Administrators on the panel can share their unique perception of the role that data curation plays in repositories in research institutions.

The second group of key stakeholders is generally referred to as information professionals. Information professionals, whether research faculty or librarians play a role in establishing the parameters of curation in research data management communities. Librarians are starting to take on a more robust role in data curation. They are considered ideally suited as curators in repositories because of their background in working with information. This panel will address, from an information professional’s perspective, the role they play in data curation in the data management environment. The final group of stakeholders concerns the data producers: the research scientists. We have two research scientists who can share their perspective of the role that data curation and policy plays in the data management community.

PANEL PRESENTATIONS
Michael Luesebrink will moderate the panel presentations and discussion.

Two panelists will provide the research scientist perspective. Dr. Huang from the University of South Florida and Dr. Jevin West from the iSchool at the University of Washington will both discuss data curation and policy issues from their perspective as scientific researchers. They will discuss their research, which is related to data curation and policy.

Two panelists, who are active in data curation as information professionals are Kristin Bogdan, a science and social science data librarian at Yale University and Dorothea Salo, a faculty associate at the University of Wisconsin, Madison who teaches and does research in curation. They will provide their perspective, as information professionals, of the role that data curators play in research data management communities. They will share their research and experience working with data curation within the repository environment.

Two higher education administrators will share their administrative perspectives on the panel. They will examine the topic of the initiation of institutional repositories from a strategic level. Lizabeth Wilson, Vice Provost of Digital Initiatives and Dean of the Libraries, University of Washington and Charles Thomas, Executive Director, University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions Library Consortium will share their perspectives as administrator stakeholders.

AUDIENCE INTERACTIONS
The panel discussion will last ninety minutes. Each Panelist will be given approximately 10-12 minutes to make their presentation, with sufficient time reserved after the presentations for questions and answers with the audience.

 BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND CONTRIBUTIONS, PANELISTS
Michael Luesebrink, Moderator
Michael Luesebrink, PhD, works as an acquisitions librarian at Florida State University. He has worked there as a science librarian and also in the biopharmaceutical industry. His research interests include organizational culture in higher education, information policy, scholarly communication and publishing, big data and e-science. He
holds a Bachelor’s degree in biology, a MLIS and earned his PhD in Information Studies at Florida State University.

**Dr. Hong Huang**

Hong Huang, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the School of Information, University of South Florida. His primary research interests included genomics and eScience data practice, curation, and management. He also conducts research related to scholarly communication, and health information behaviors, and user perception and interaction with social media tools. He earned his PhD at Florida State University’s School of Information. He has also obtained master degrees in Computer Science and Genetics, and holds a Bachelor degree in biochemistry. He has published in *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, *Journal of Documentation*, *Journal of Computer and Information Science*, among others.

**Kristin Bogdan**

Kristin Bogdan is a Science and Social Science Data Librarian at the Center for Science and Social Science Information at Yale University. She received her M.L.I.S. from the University of Western Ontario with an Area of Concentration in Information Technology Management. Before she came to Yale she was working in the Canadian mining industry as a data manager.

**Dorothea Salo**

Dorothea Salo is a Faculty Associate in the School of Library and Information Studies at University of Wisconsin, Madison. She teaches courses in library technology, data curation, database design, organization of information, and the changing landscape of publishing. She serves on UW-Madison's Research Data Services team. She has wrote and presented internationally on data curation, institutional repositories, linked data, scholarly publishing, copyright, and user-centered design. She holds an MA in Library and Information Studies and a MA in Spanish from UW-Madison.

**Charles Thomas**

Charles Thomas is Executive Director of the University System of Maryland & Affiliated Institutions (USMAI). Prior to this position, he served five years as a senior grants program officer with the Institute of Museum and Library Service. He served during its period of heaviest investments in digital curation and data curation activities. He has worked as a digital archivist and librarian at multiple large ARL libraries. Currently he is working with multiple public and private institutions to establish shared digital infrastructure and services for repositories, preservation, publishing, and related activities.

**Jevin West, PhD**

Jevin West is an Assistant Professor in the iSchool at the University of Washington. He builds models, algorithms and interactive visualizations for improving scholarly communication and in understanding the flow of information in large knowledge networks. Jevin cofounded Eigenfactor.org — a free website and research platform that librarians, administrators, publishers and researchers use to map science and identify influential journals, papers and scholars.

**Lizabeth Wilson**

Lizabeth (Betsy) Wilson is the Vice Provost for Digital Initiatives and Dean of University Libraries at the University of Washington. She has held numerous leadership positions in the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Orbi Cascade Alliance, the Association of Research Libraries, and the Greater Western Library Alliance. She has chaired the OCLC Board of Trustees and serves on the HathiTrust Governing Board. She publishes and presents widely on information literacy, cross-sector collaborations; digital futures, and global libraries. She holds an M.L.S. from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a B.A. from Northwestern University.

**CONCLUSION**

In summary, the proposed panel discussion will examine issues in data curation and policy from the perspective of research scientists, information professionals and administrators. Each participant will explore the issues and trends that are shaping contemporary collaborative research data management communities in terms of curation and policy, but from their specific stakeholder perspective. The goal of this proposed panel is to provide a debate with the audience for examining the research data management community in terms of a collaborative effort between research scientists as data producers; information professionals as practitioners; and administrators as advocates of repository innovation. Hopefully, it will provide a forum for further discussion and will open doors for future research in the areas of data curation and policy.

**PANELISTS AND AFFILIATIONS**

**Moderator**

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