

Research and Education Data Management

ITPB 2007-08 Priority Area

Report for Discussion at January 29, 2008 ITPB Meeting

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Work to date

- Priority area from July 2007 ITPB retreat
 - Problem Scope presented at November 1 ITPB mtg
 - Subcommittee formed November 1
 - Christine Borgman, Information Studies, Chair
 - Marilyn Raphael, Geography
 - Alan Robinson, Medical School
 - Gary Strong, University Librarian
 - Sam Morabito, Business enterprise
 - Margo Reveil, ATS
 - Libbie Stephenson, Social Science Data Archives
 - Committee met November 26
 - Alan Robinson reported at Dec 14 ITPB mtg
 - Committee met January 14
 - Recommendations to ITPB: today
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Scope of topic

- The campus research and educational data management - i.e., data management as infrastructure
 1. Help for researchers to create data management plans
 2. Develop an institutional response to the directions of grant agencies regarding data
 3. Policy and standards for setting up databases
 4. Who owns the problem
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Recommendations and priorities

- Develop an institutional response to the directions of grant agencies regarding data
 - Help for researchers to create data management plans
 - Policy and standards for setting up databases
 - Who owns the problem
 - Identify responsibilities for education, curation
 - Identify variability in responsibilities
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Institutional responses: DM plans - 1

Help for researchers to create data management plans: Known constraints

- Funding agencies do not appear to have established clear guidelines for data management plans
 - National / international bodies have not established best practice guidelines for data management
 - Notions of “data” vary widely by discipline and by research problem
 - Retention practices vary widely by discipline
 - Funding agency requirements for data retention may be at odds with IRB policies for data destruction
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Institutional responses: DM plans - 2

- Help for researchers to create data management plans
 - Identify current practice
 - Survey best practices on campus
 - Survey best practices elsewhere
 - Establish / enhance services
 - Website, actively maintained
 - Education and referral services
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Institutional responses: DM plans - 3

- Help for researchers to create data management plans:
 - Staffing
 - Assistance to subcommittee to assemble survey
 - Compilation of results and recommendations
 - Construction and maintenance of website
 - Coordination of education and referral services
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Institutional responses: databases

- Policy and standards for setting up databases
 - Best practices
 - Responsibility
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Who owns the problem?

- Identify responsibilities for education, curation
 - Within school, department, research group?
 - Campus level?
 - VC for research
 - Library
 - Funding agency?
 - Discipline / research area?
 - Identify variability in responsibilities
 - Content (e.g., by type of material)
 - Origins (e.g., locally generated vs. purchased)
 - External criteria (e.g., funding agencies)
 - Practice (e.g., disciplinary variation)
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Conclusions and recommendations

- Assign staffing resources
 - Best practices survey
 - Website development and maintenance
 - Determine campus responsibilities
 - Education and referral on data management plans
 - Creation and curation of data resources
 - Identify long term strategy for best practices in data management and curation
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