Emerging and Innovating Research Support in Academic Libraries: The Datametrics Agenda

Sheila Corrall, Mary Anne Kennan and Waseem Afzal

Survey population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>New Zealand</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>Ireland</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of institutions</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of responses</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent response rate</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>53.9</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research questions

- What specialist research support services are libraries offering and planning?
- Are libraries constrained in providing specialist research support services?
- Do staff require additional education and training for research support roles?
- How might LIS schools respond to evolving library roles in research support?

Services offered or planned

- Bibliometrics training
- Citation reports
- Research impact
- Grant applications
- Staff development
- Disciplines
- Data calculations

- Australia (n=33)
- New Zealand (n=8)
- UK (n=82)
- Ireland (n=9)

Percentage of libraries offering or planning bibliometric support

- Australia (n=33)
- New Zealand (n=8)
- UK (n=82)
- Ireland (n=9)

Percentage of libraries offering or planning data management support

Key findings

Service partners

- Bibliometric support is most frequently offered in partnership with research offices (or equivalent)
- Other collaborators for bibliometrics include grad schools, planning departments, HR, academic services, and IT
- Data management support is most frequently offered with research offices, and with IT/high performance computing
- Other collaborators for data support include grad schools, e-research units, and records management/legal services

Service audiences

- Primary user group for both service areas is individual academic and research staff, followed by research students
- Services are also being targeted at academic groups/units (such as departments, schools, faculties, and colleges)
- University administrators are important users of bibliometrics

Constraints on service development

- Staff require confidence
- Not a service priority
- Different levels of demand
- Different needs across disciplines
- Other (mainly resourcing issues)
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Percentage reporting constraints on bibliometric support

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Percentage reporting constraints on data management support

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Education needs

Staff development priorities include bibliometric techniques and impact measures; data management, curation and metadata schema; technical and ICT skills; research processes, methods and workflows; local and national research agenda.

Implications for policy and practice

- Institutional repositories have emerged as pivotal components of successful research support strategies, acting as the launchpad for data management, and achieving growth as a result of bibliometrics activity at institutional level
- Libraries are developing repository reporting tools and impact measures, which can be used as metrics for traditional research outputs and datasets
- Librarians can use their bibliometric and datametric expertise to develop their strategic role in research administration, through involvement in areas such as trend analysis, grant writing, publishing strategies and faculty evaluations
- They can offer guidance on emerging practices or standards for data citation and

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