Positioning for the Data Future:  
New Directions for the University of Cincinnati Libraries

Ted Baldwin¹ & Kristen Burgess²

¹Director, Science and Engineering Libraries; ²Clinical and Research Informationist, Health Sciences Library

Under the visionary leadership of our new Dean, the University of Cincinnati Libraries (UCL) is embarking on a dramatic transformation to prepare for our data future.

Our goal is to dramatically alter UCL’s role and relationship with campus partners to meet the teaching, research, and healthcare missions of the university.

These bold initiatives reveal and affirm that the broader campus has interest, buy-in, and needs relative to data education and support.

---

Fall 2012: UCL participated in the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) / Duraspace E-Science Institute
- E-Science Team membership included Interim CIO for UC (now permanent CIO)
- Process spurred new discussions, confirmed there was a new environment and the potential for collaboration
- Affirmed the libraries’ expanding role surrounding research data education and support.

Developing workshops on data management and literacy
- HSL Research Series including Data Management Planning (DMP) & Discovering Data Sets
  - DMP guide (bit.ly/ucldmpguide)
  - Data Sets and Statistics guide (bit.ly/ucldatasets)
- HSL creating course for COM Medical Sciences minor: Informatics for the 21st Century Medical Professional

Developing a next-generation Digital Repository (high-level white paper at bit.ly/uc-digrep)
- Meet data-intensive needs of researchers from across the institution: science, engineering, health sciences, digital humanities, etc.
- Flexible and modular system based on the open source Hydra framework (Fedora)
- Spurred creation of UCL software R&D unit, with shared staffing with UCIT, Office of Research, and colleges (e.g., DAAP)

Ongoing strategic planning initiatives including extensive workforce transformation & new data-focused collaborations
- Hired Clinical & Research Informationist - focus on research data education and support
- Hiring new data support positions (Check out libraries.uc.edu/information/personnel/ soon!)

Planning for Research Commons for Science & Engineering
- Large-scale visualization theater, collaboration spaces, high-end computing (repurposing of existing space)
- Partnering with academic departments on data-related instruction and consultation services
- Future: Informatics Commons (Health Sciences Library)

Works in Progress
- HSL Research Portal
- Pursuing and collaborating on joint grant funding for UCL informationists
  - Advanced data management consultations, discipline-specific instruction and workshops
  - New and continuing partnerships and collaborations, e.g., Research Directory, UCIT, Office of Research

---

Data Information Literacy Symposium, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, September 23-24, 2013