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in from external commercial and open-source database vendors such as Biosis and PubMed, through manual curation of information found on faculty member’s departmental websites and online C.V.’s, as well as through internal reporting systems.

The initial content input for the life sciences and subsequent disciplines required a great deal of human entry. The efforts of both manual curator and automated processes have resulted in a system that reflects the electronic information currently available for faculty and staff, but manual entry alone is not a viable option for moving forward. VIVO’s goal is to transition to a platform where nearly all of its content is harvested and delivered through automated or semi-automated processes. The sustainability of VIVO’s content has remained at the forefront of the technological and administrative development of the system, particularly with regards to the profiles of individual researchers.

Librarians and developers on the VIVO project have focused much of their effort on outreach with faculty, staff, and administrative and academic units to unearath standardized information from any available sources, as well as to engage the university community in content development and management. The library recognizes its strong role as an impartial nucleus between multiple campus interests; it does not, however, have the expertise and resources to continually develop accurate class associations for the university’s diverse community. Nor does it have the type of consistent foundation that a system like Find an Expert (University of Melbourne) has; Australia maintains several government-defined classification schemes, including Research Fields, Courses and Disciplines (RFCD) that offer a strong semantic framework on which to build. Engaging the university community, particularly administrative units and research centers and institutes, in content management has been met with some success; for example, a high-tech facility recently requested and received editor training in an effort to manage their own content. The VIVO system, in as much as it seeks to enrich the collaborative culture on campus, must also foster partnerships for itself to ensure that the system remains a powerful, accurate and highly utilized component of Cornell’s overall online presence.

Conclusion and Next Steps

As interdisciplinary collaboration is imbedded into more university cultures, both in the life and medical sciences and beyond, adopting online systems that can provide new discovery models will likely increase. A case in point is VIVO; when VIVO was released to the Virtual Life Sciences Library in 2005, other Cornell colleges, departments, and administrative units realized the potential offered by VIVO. These entities, too, wanted a system that could provide a bird’s eye view of their resources, research, events, and facilities. In 2006, with cooperation and funding from Cornell’s administration, the library agreed to expand what was initially a discovery tool to emphasize life sciences to a system that could showcase the research of over 1,200 faculty and academic staff who span Cornell’s geographically distant campuses in New York State and abroad. In the latest phase of development, self-editing capabilities for the system have been developed and are currently under testing. This functionality will allow faculty and academic staff at Cornell to securely login using the university authorization system, and modify their current VIVO profile. This latest iteration, VIVO Research and Scholarship, will be released campus-wide in fall 2008. The library will continue to play its role as the technical arbitrator and outreach liaison between VIVO and the university community, as well as seeking new ways to strengthen access to content across not only disciplinary boundaries within Cornell, but across institutions as well.

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Endnotes
6. VIVO development was inspired and adapted from many of the features found on HealthLinks.