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Susan K. Kendall Profile

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traditionally understood, like long-term preservation and access issues. Job descriptions of several newly posted librarian positions in the health sciences specify that the librarian will help research faculty create data management and curation plans and identify institutional and subject specific data repositories. A new focus on open data has grown naturally out of the last decade's focus on open access for research publication. So new are data management services for health sciences libraries that they were not included in the 2010 AAHSL survey of services being offered in health sciences libraries.

Research Networking

The development of clinical and translational research institutes and other interdisciplinary research institutes has also been the impetus for institutions to invest in some kind of online research networking tool. These are designed to create profiles of researchers at any given institution by pulling information from publications, grants, and other sources to display research expertise by way of keywords and descriptors. The profiles display research expertise and interest to others outside or inside the institution who may want to set up collaborations. VIVO is one of these tools, and it was developed through a grant from the **National Institutes of Health**. But research profiling/networking has been discovered by many major commercial vendors, and now several different tools are available by subscription and more are being developed. So far, they have been most popular in medical schools and biomedical research centers. While librarians are not usually involved in the licensing or payment for these tools, they have worked on their implementation to varying degrees with others in their institutions. Librarians can bring to the table their understanding of the workings of bibliographic databases, controlled vocabularies, and research citation, all of which are used by these tools and are important for the accuracy of the research profiles. To the extent that librarians have been able to be involved, they have found these occasions to be opportunities to demonstrate their expertise to faculty and administrators and their commitment to furthering the research missions of their institutions.

Collection Management

The trends discussed here involve new roles for librarians working with basic scientists, but more traditional collections management librarians should not be left out. While, in the past, the basic biomedical sciences collection consisted mainly of journals plus a few books, new types of products have recently become available. In the past decade, laboratory protocols books have gone online to become protocols databases with new bells and whistles. Video protocols databases are a recent new invention. The online versions of reference materials for scientists no longer look like books but have become continually updated databases. In response, librarians find themselves asking questions about their

against the grain people profile

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Susan K. Kendall

BORN AND LIVED: Washington, DC; Vienna, VA; Grand Rapids, MI; Ann Arbor, MI; Cleveland, OH; Champaign, IL; and now Lansing, MI.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: In college I majored in biology, and I went on to do a Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology and postdoctoral work in genetics. After that I decided to make a career switch, got a library degree, and have enjoyed working as a biology librarian at **Michigan State University Libraries** since 2002. Since 2005, I have also coordinated the Libraries' health sciences collections and librarians serving our medical, nursing, and veterinary colleges.

IN MY SPARE TIME: I enjoy hiking, birding, gardening, dancing, visiting art galleries, travelling, reading, attending acoustic music concerts, and listening to podcasts.

FAVORITE BOOKS: I like to read classic and modern classic novels and am making a special effort these days to read noteworthy novels by women authors. Also, I recently became intrigued by **Rachel Carson** after creating a library exhibit in late 2012 on the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Silent Spring*, and I enjoyed reading the biography, *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature*, by **Linda Lear**.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Health sciences libraries are particularly forward thinking, and I see more and more emphasis on libraries providing non bibliographic types of resources and tools and apps for managing information. 🍷



collection policies. Should libraries provide primarily bibliographic information or should they also provide raw scientific datasets? And licensing is another consideration, particularly when vendors unused to working with libraries do not understand library values. How do we encourage licensing that perpetuates the values of information sharing, public access, and interlibrary loan when a product consists of datasets or streaming video? In the case of bioinformatics software and data, only a minority of health sciences libraries have decided to pay for institutional access.⁵ More libraries seem to be subscribing to the new protocols databases and hybrid reference databases. Other types of potential library purchases are the numerous new products to help scientists keep up with the scientific literature and manage the vast number of articles they are reading. Many libraries already provide institutional access to reference management software that also allows researchers to store and mark up their pdfs. They are also starting to provide institutional access to new productivity tools and apps that allow researchers to easily access and read favorite journals and other content on their tablets and phones. While some question whether precious collection dollars should be spent on resources that do not provide content, many librarians see providing access to and training on these new tools as a way to demonstrate continuing support and value to the research scientist community.

Conclusion

Today librarians are finding many opportunities for points of contact and engagement with basic biomedical researchers. A recent systematic review of the changing roles of health sciences librarians found that many of the new roles I've mentioned here are described in the literature and in recent job postings.⁸ A survey of library directors and other librarians in biomedical settings published at the same time by the same authors found that many of the roles for librarians that are "trending up," that is, more likely to be planned than already in place, relate to support for research.⁹ Some of these new roles do require specialized knowledge and new skills, but others use the skills that librarians have always had but may only now be appreciated by these patrons. There can be some tension as librarians begin to negotiate with non-librarians in their institutions as to who should perform which roles. Some of these services might be performed by a librarian at one institution but someone with a different background at a different institution. Health sciences library directors are making individual decisions, based on their situations and budgets, about which of these services their libraries will offer, and librarian roles will look different from place to place. I think that librarians do bring a unique perspective and skill set to all of these different kinds of

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