



SciDataCon 2016

Lightning Talk Proposal– Session: Research data services on campus - Strategies, needs and experience at universities

Data services best practices and making exceptions.

Summary

The Albertsons Library Data Management Team at Boise State University is working with other stakeholders on campus, such as the Office of Information Technology (OIT), the Office of Research Development, and individual researchers to assess and meet data management needs. Progress has been made in supporting the publishing of data and assigning Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs). In setting up the systems and workflows to aid researchers in making their data publicly available, guidelines and best practices were developed. As researchers began using our services, exceptions were quickly requested leading to Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) between departments, additional workflows, and efforts to educate researchers about best practices for publishing data and providing long term access to data.

Developing Best Practices for Publishing Data

When the decision was made to use Boise State's Institutional Repository, ScholarWorks, to disseminate research data, we developed policies for depositing data sets based on the DataShare Policy guide. The goal was to create guidelines which promote consistency for researchers and managers of the repository with a low barrier to entry. The guidelines included metadata requirements, licensing recommendations, eligibility of depositors and more. Soon after the guidelines were reviewed and agreed upon by several groups, we turned them into more author friendly FAQs¹.

Exceptions

As the guidelines were presented as best practices and suggestions, researchers began asking to deposit data without meeting some of the recommendations. For example, we recommended a file size limitation of 2GB because of upload/download speeds with our current repository system and wanting to have a controlled copy before issuing a DOI. The first researcher requested a DOI for a 130TB dataset which would be available on an OIT managed server, with OIT guaranteeing storage for five years as long as the researcher remains at Boise State.

Next Steps

The example above was solved by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of Information Technology and educating researchers about publishing and providing long term access to data. The MOU states that any dataset on an OIT managed server, for which the Library issues a DOI, will not be edited, removed, or relocated without informing the Library. This allows the Library to create a landing page for the DOI with a link to the dataset and eventually transition that dataset to the repository as technology improves. This example also allowed the Library to educate other stakeholders on persistent identifiers and long term

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access best practices. To track exceptions and decisions, a database was created to note the stakeholders involved and any future actions needed. As we are early in our publishing data services, the exception requests also allow us to reflect on where we need to educate researchers and where we need to rethink guidelines.

Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Notes

1 <http://scholarworks.boisestate.edu/faq.htm/>

References

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Green, A., Macdonald, S., and Rice, R 2009 *Policy-making for Research Data in Repositories: A Guide*. EDINA. Available at <http://www.disc-uk.org/docs/guide.pdf>