Research Services Annual Report, July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

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I.   Summary of Activities

Research Services contributes to the research, scholarly communication, and publishing activities of library faculty and academic professionals. In particular, Research Services furthers faculty and academic professional research and publication activities through consultations, instructional activities and programming, outreach, and other means. Areas of focus include development of research projects and methodologies, research-related writing, funding opportunities, author rights, and the publication process.

Situated in the Office of Research, Research Services partners with related units including the Scholarly Commons, Research Data Service, and Scholarly Communications and Publishing on areas of mutual interest. In particular due to its internal professional development responsibilities, Research Services seeks to cooperate in professional development of library faculty and academic professionals on scholarly communications, publishing, and data issues, and contributes to the evolution of subject specialist roles in the library as they come to include more responsibilities in these areas coordinated by Office of Research units.

Research Services includes one librarian: Dan Tracy (50% Research Services, 50% Library and Information Science/SSHEL). During Spring 2015, a graduate hourly was also employed to assist with Research Services (and Library and Information Science) activities as backfill for copyright consultation and instruction duties taken on by the librarian.

II.   Research Services Activities

Consultations

Research Services consults with librarians both systematically and on an as-needed basis. Routine consultations include in person orientation sessions with new faculty and yearly update meetings with untenured faculty through their 3Y year. As-needed consultations happen with any tenured or untenured faculty or academic professional in person, and via phone, email, and Skype chat depending on the circumstances. These consultations cover issues related to author rights, publication processes, writing in progress, research methods and project development, and other topics.

In FY15, Research Services provided 58 (21 routine, 37 as needed) consultations, up 29.4% from 34 in FY14. These consultations have steadily grown in number (from a negligible number in FY13, when Research Services began) as library faculty and academic professionals have increasingly understood the scope of the service.

Feedback on FY15 Consultation Activities:

[W]hen I was working on an a recent research article I consulted with you as to where I might submit the article for possible publication. You provided me with several great ideas as well as things to consider when selecting a publication. You also reviewed the draft as it neared completion and had several suggestions that significantly improved the flow of the article. This article has been accepted for publication in one of the journals that you had suggested.

In our most recent research consultation check-in, you recommended that I contact the editors of the journal to which I intended to submit my article to confirm whether it might be in scope. This was a very helpful recommendation, since they told me it was not in scope, and recommended other options to me. I had never thought to contact editors ahead of time (and didn't realize that they would be so willing to provide this sort of pre-submission feedback), and it was very helpful since I was somewhat uncertain whether the article would be in scope.

I certainly couldn't have navigated the challenges of applying for Campus Research Board funds without your guidance. It's a prestigious award, and the help and encouragement you were able to provide aided me greatly in making sure I could secure funding.

Writing Groups

Writing groups are opportunities for faculty and academic professionals to provide and receive feedback on their writing in progress. These groups foster research community in the library by increasing awareness of others' research, offering opportunities for constructive criticism, and giving network for peer mentoring. Research Services places interested researchers in writing groups and provides guidance on best practices for giving and receiving feedback on research writing.

As of the end of FY15, there were five groups with a collective total of 21 members.

Feedback on FY15 Writing Group Activities

The writing groups at least from my perspective have been a great motivator for me to finish work and get it published. As a tenured faculty member, there is not the same urgency to publish as there for untenured, and some of my projects had languished; however, having a deadline to finish a draft and then having wonderful colleagues to provide feedback has been excellent. I finally finished my sabbatical project and now want to work on other things.

Dan setting up the writing groups has really been helpful in helping me further along my research. He is actually a member of my writing group and the group's feedback helped me get my first single-author article published in a high impact peer-reviewed journal.

Programming and Instructional Activities

Research Services develops programming and offers original instruction on research and publication topics. It also hosts webinars are relevant issues. Specific topics are developed based

on expressed need as well as opportunities for growth. LIS Methods Round Tables are events intended to introduce specific research methods to those who have not used them before and want to start learning. These events and webinars tend to happen during the regular academic year because they are low-intensity. More in-depth sessions requiring higher participant engagement tend to be scheduled in summer when schedules are more flexible and people can commit to longer workshops that enhance learning.

Specific programs and instructional sessions offered during FY15 included:

- The concluding session of a series of workshops on statistical concepts. Led by JoAnn Jacoby on July 10, 2014. 18 participants.
- Workshop on IRB applications and processes. Led by Dan Tracy on July 24, 2014. 6 participants.
- Nine webinars on Research Methods and Questions, Research Writing, and Survey Development, and Fair Use. Sponsored by Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, the Illinois Survey Research Lab in Spring 2015, and ACRL. 33 participants total.
- Two LIS Methods Roundtables (one on Ethnographic and Observational Methods; one on Transaction Logs and Other Usage Data). Led by Dan Tracy with panelists from University Library and GSLIS faculty on February 4, 2015 and April 14, 2015. 26 participants total.
- Workshop on using GIS for research in Library and Information Science. Led by James Whitacre on June 22, 2015. 15 participants.

Feedback on FY15 Programming Activities

The stats workshop last summer has really helped me with subsequent data collection and analytics. It hasn't resulted in publications yet, but it has helped me to be a much more critical reader when it comes to survey based research data.

I...filled definite gaps in my knowledge of statistics in the stats workshop, and intend to use that knowledge in my [Campus Research Board] project.

I have not yet used statistical methods in my own research but last summer's statistics course was invaluable as it covered important statistical concepts that are useful as I review literature for my own research, and in assessing reports from the biomedical literature when I am working with students and faculty on their research.

Outreach

Research Services leads outreach related to faculty and academic professional research and service achievements through communications and events. The Recognizing Excellence blog (http://publish.illinois.edu/library-excellence/) promotes research and service achievements, and items from the blog are sometimes featured in the general library news feed or in the Library Advancement Office's *Friendscript* publication, which goes to donors. The Database of Publications by University of Illinois Library Faculty provides a bibliography of research

publications with links to full text, and serves both as a general record of library research and a resource for faculty and academic professionals to find internal library collaborators or mentors.

In consultation with the Research and Publication Committee, Research Services leads the planning of the annual Library Research Showcase that highlights library faculty and academic professional research to the campus and community. The 2014 Library Research Showcase had over 120 visitors in person, and the archived posters and recorded lightning talks have received over 900 downloads from IDEALS to date.

III.   Goals/Challenges

Besides individual consultations, programming of various kinds is one of the most time-intensive but also impactful activities of Research Services. Due to natural work cycle issues, limited time for attendees to commit to attendance, and other issues, it is imperative that programming opportunities be impactful and targeted with clear take-aways for participants. Research Services seeks to balance clear needs based on demand with opportunities to bring new research methodologies or publication issues to the attention of library faculty and academic professionals. Timing, however, serves the biggest challenge because it can dramatically affect engagement. The best time for intensive training is in the summer, when many in the library have more flexibility in their schedules, but is inherently limited. It is important to plan well in advance to ensure maximum availability for participation.

One programming need that has arisen as a repeated concern based on ongoing research projects is a need for some in-depth training related to analysis of qualitative data, particularly coding of textual data (whether transcriptions of interviews or analysis of chat transcripts). Research Services hopes to support in-depth programming in this area in the Summer of 2016.

Another goal for the coming year is to partner with Researcher Information Services to explore ways to take advantage of the library's implementation of Elsevier Pure (as Illinois Research Connections) as a way to update the record of scholarship by library faculty. Research Services currently uses the Library Faculty Publications Database for this process, but Illinois Research Connections holds promise as a way to automate much of this otherwise time-consuming activity. This automated content may also facilitate discovery of items that might otherwise not make it into the database or the Recognizing Excellence blog.