

Research Services
Unit Annual Report
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017
Submitted by: Daniel Tracy

I Unit Narrative

1. Major activities and accomplishments

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.

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.

At the end of FY17, there were five groups, with a collective total of 28 members.

Programming and Instructional Activities

Research Services develops programming and offers original instruction on research and publication topics. It also hosts webinars on relevant issues. Specific topics are developed based on expressed need as well as opportunities for growth. Select 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 FY17 included:

- A series of three workshops in July 2016 on qualitative methods and data coding, with two led by Lori Kendall from the iSchool and a final software-based workshop

- led by Beth Sheehan (19 participants).
- A workshop on the peer review process in January 2017, led by Dan Tracy with a panel of editors and librarians talking about experiences with peer review.
- A workshop on writing a literature review in June 2017, led by Dan Tracy (19 participants).
- [At the start of FY18 a series of three workshops on Visualization Basics was delivered by Sarah Christensen, Jen Yu, and Dan Tracy, which had been prepared in FY17 before Tracy's transition away from Research Services duties. (16, 11, 13 participants)]

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. There were 25 new posts to the blog during FY17, due in large part to graduate hourly support.

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. Besides normal additions to the database, the graduate hourly in Research Services created a style guide to improve consistency of entries and completed a review of all prior entries to standardize appearance.

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 2016 Library Research Showcase had around 90 visitors in person, and the archived posters and recorded lightning talks have received almost 1,144 downloads from IDEALS to date.

Research Services also tracked library faculty and AP external service, awards, and grants for purposes of internal reporting.

2. Major challenges:

See below under "significant changes to unit operations."

3. Significant changes to unit operations, personnel, service profile, or service programs:

At the close of the fiscal year, the librarian charged with a .5FTE appointment leading Research Services changed roles and assumed responsibilities for Digital Humanities in the library, leaving the Research Services roll vacant for the coming fiscal year.

Responsibilities for communications-related issues were transferred to the new Chief

Communications Officer. These included the Recognizing Excellence blog, tracking of service, awards, and grants, and updating the faculty publications database (the last in consultation with the Information Sciences Librarian).

4. Contribution to Library-wide programs:

- reference, research consultations and other information services: see section one under “consultations.”
- scholarly communications and publishing;
- staff training and development: see section one under “programming and instructional activities” and “writing groups.”
- public engagement - see above under “outreach.”

5. Progress made on Unit Annual Goals for FY17:

- Research Services assessed needs for professional development and developed workshops, including a visualization workshop, for summer 2017 as planned.
- The Research Services Librarian and AUL for Research partnered on Research Services Office Hours. These were sparsely attended but productive for those who came.

6. Annual Goals for FY18:

Due to lack of current personnel, the primary goal for the library should be to establish new long-term leadership for Research Services activities.

7. What the unit needs to support these specific goals and your overall mission (training, facility needs, IT, etc.):

N/A

For units employing Graduate Assistants (GAs), the Unit Narrative should also include the following:

8. the number of GAs (FTE and Head Count) employed during FY17;

1 graduate hourly funded for an average of five hours/week

9. the funding source for the unit’s GAs (e.g., state funds, grant funds, endowment funds); and

Office of Research allocated state funds

10. the major responsibilities assigned to the GAs in the unit, and an overview of the contributions made (or projects completed) by GAs during the fiscal year.

Creation of content for Recognizing Excellence blog.
Updating Library Faculty Publications Database.

Creating communications content and assisting with managing Library Research Showcase.
Other activities as needed.

II Statistical Profile

1. Facilities

- N/A

2. Personnel

- Daniel Tracy, Assistant Professor, .5 FTE
- Alyssa Denneler, Graduate Hourly, 5 hours/week

3. User Services

- N/A

4. Other statistics (optional)

- None

III Appendices (optional)

None.