Research Services Annual Report, July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

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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 services including the Scholarly Commons, Research Data Service, Scholarly Communications and Publishing, and Research Information Systems, 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 FY16, a 25% graduate assistant 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 FY16, Research Services provided 74 consultations, up from 58 in FY15 and 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.

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 FY16, Research Services did a standard call for new members, and also completed an assessment of current writing group member experiences and expectations. Based on the data gathered, at the end of FY16 overlapping with the beginning of FY17, Research Services shuffled members of some groups where necessary in order to provide better group experiences. As of the end of this process, there were still five groups, now with a collective total of 26 members. Due to a welcome increase in participation by tenured faculty, all groups but one now have at least one tenured faculty member involved.

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. 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 FY16 included:

- A workshop on Finding a Place to Publish. Led by Dan Tracy on July 23, 2015. 11 participants.
- Writing Your Research for Diverse Audiences. Led by Dan Tracy with Maria Gillombardo from the OVCR on July 23, 2015. 9 participants.
    - Reprised twice by Dan Tracy for smaller groups on November 11, 2015 and January 8, 2016. 7 participants.
- Four webinars including one on supporting DH research, writing proposals for ACRL, and two Survey Research Lab webinars in Spring 2016. 26 participants.
- IRB Workshop. Led by Ron Banks on June 16, 2016. 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 19 new posts to the blog during FY16, a significant bump 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.

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 2015 Library Research Showcase had over 100 visitors in person, and the archived posters and recorded lightning talks have received almost 2,200 downloads from IDEALS to date. This shows increased reach of the showcase presentations: last year at the same time, the 2014 Showcase presentations had been downloaded only about 900 times.

In late FY16, Research Services became responsible for tracking library faculty and AP external service, awards, and grants for purposes of internal reporting.

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.

After a highly successful workshop series on qualitative data coding at the beginning of FY17, Research Services will investigate the possibility for some follow-up programming due to the large number of researchers working in this area currently. Research Services also plans to assess the needs for next summer's programming, including investigating the possibility of workshops on visualization with the Visual Resources Specialist.

While the number of consultations has continued to rise, Research Services is exploring options for making them available in other formats. To this end, Dan Tracy will partner with Beth Namachchivaya to have monthly Research Services open office hours beginning in the Fall 2016 term.

Research Services was able to substantively increase the amount of coverage of library faculty and AP research and service activities in the past year, in large part due to graduate student support that (as of yet) is not continued for the future. Nonetheless, compared to other units on

campus the library does not cover librarian achievements as often as might be preferable. Research Services hopes in the long term to be able to address this by working with whatever communications structure comes out of follow-up task force work from the library's strategic planning. However, until such a solution is in place, this type of content is unlikely to increase further and may decrease without continued graduate hourly assistance.

A continuing goal 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. During FY16, Research Services completed a gap analysis comparing IRC to the publications database, and this data will help initiate the conversation. The gap analysis raises significant issues for consideration, including gaps in content due to differing missions of the two resources.