Jumpstarting Research Data Management (RDM) Services: Lessons Learned From Participating At THE 2018 DLF e-Research Network Program

Benjamin H. Saracco
Rowan University, saracco@rowan.edu

Shilpa Rele
Rowan University, rele@rowan.edu

Stephen Robishaw
Rowan University, robishaw@rowan.edu

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The Digital Library Federation e-Research Network (DLF eRN) is a six-month program that brings together teams from research-supporting libraries to strengthen and advance their organizational data services and digital scholarship roles. Stakeholders from Rowan University (RU) Libraries and the Division of University Research participated in the 2018 cohort and developed strategies and documentation to guide the implementation of RDM at RU. The following materials were drafted and will be implemented in the coming months: A roadmap for RDM services, a data dictionary for research data sets, a survey instrument for an environmental scan, and an IRB application.

**Tangible Outputs**

(Scan the QR codes to view outputs)

**Roadmap**

A roadmap was drafted to help guide the team’s activities in the coming months. The plan outlines specific next steps to take to implement RDM services at the University.

**RDM Survey**

A University, IRB-approved survey was sent out to the most research-engaged faculty at each campus. The survey was designed to measure current RDM knowledge, practices, and institutional needs.

**Data Dictionary for Datasets**

A data dictionary was created to clearly define what metadata standards the University will use for RDM held in our institutional repository, Rowan Digital Works.

**Lessons Learned**

- Collaboration across different departments is key
- Long road ahead
- Have a sales pitch for your ideas to get buy-in from decision makers at your institution
- Start small with RDM services and then scale up

**Next Steps**

- Analyze and share survey results with campus stakeholders
- Develop tiered level of RDM services
- Identify staffing and knowledge gaps, recommend hiring and professional development opportunities
- Meet with Information Technology dept. to discuss collaborative campus RDM program/services

**DLF eRN team at Rowan University**

The eRN team at Rowan University was joint-funded by Rowan University Libraries and the Division of University Research.

The current team is comprised of librarians and professional research staff that have experience working with faculty researchers, research data, and have an interest in furthering the research output of the University.

**Shilpa Rele**, Scholarly Communication and Data Curation Librarian Rowan University

**Benjamin Saracco**, Research and Reference Librarian, Cooper Medical School at Rowan University

**Stephen Robishaw**, Manager Proposal Development, Rowan University