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Providing Support for an Interdisciplinary Research Group with a Multidisciplinary Informationist Team: Is It Effective?

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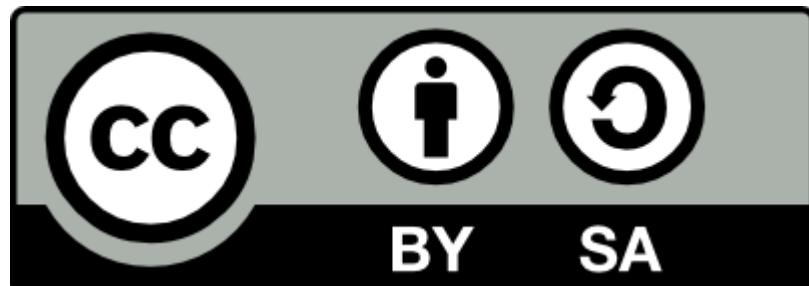
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Providing Support for an Interdisciplinary Research Group with a Multidisciplinary Informationist Team: Is it Effective?

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Survey Results After 2 Years (n=5)

- Everyone on the Research Team said they had consulted an Informationist and saved time.
- “Found sources I may not have otherwise.”
- Both PIs added Informationists as a top resource to consult.
- Research Team members no longer consulted Wikipedia as a top resource.

Lessons Learned

- It may not make sense or be feasible to support the Research Team in all anticipated areas.
- Good communication between Informationists is critical; the Informationist Team used Google Docs to share notes with one another and they met once a month.
- Having only 1 Informationist at each lab meeting is probably better for the Research Team dynamic.

Advantages of the Team Model

- Sharing the workload saved librarians time and allowed for higher quality output since work could be delegated to a specialist.
- Weekly lab attendance was possible with multiple informationists, which allowed the Research Team to ask questions as they arose, saving them time as well.



A Multidisciplinary Informationist Team’s Role and Impact Over Two Years

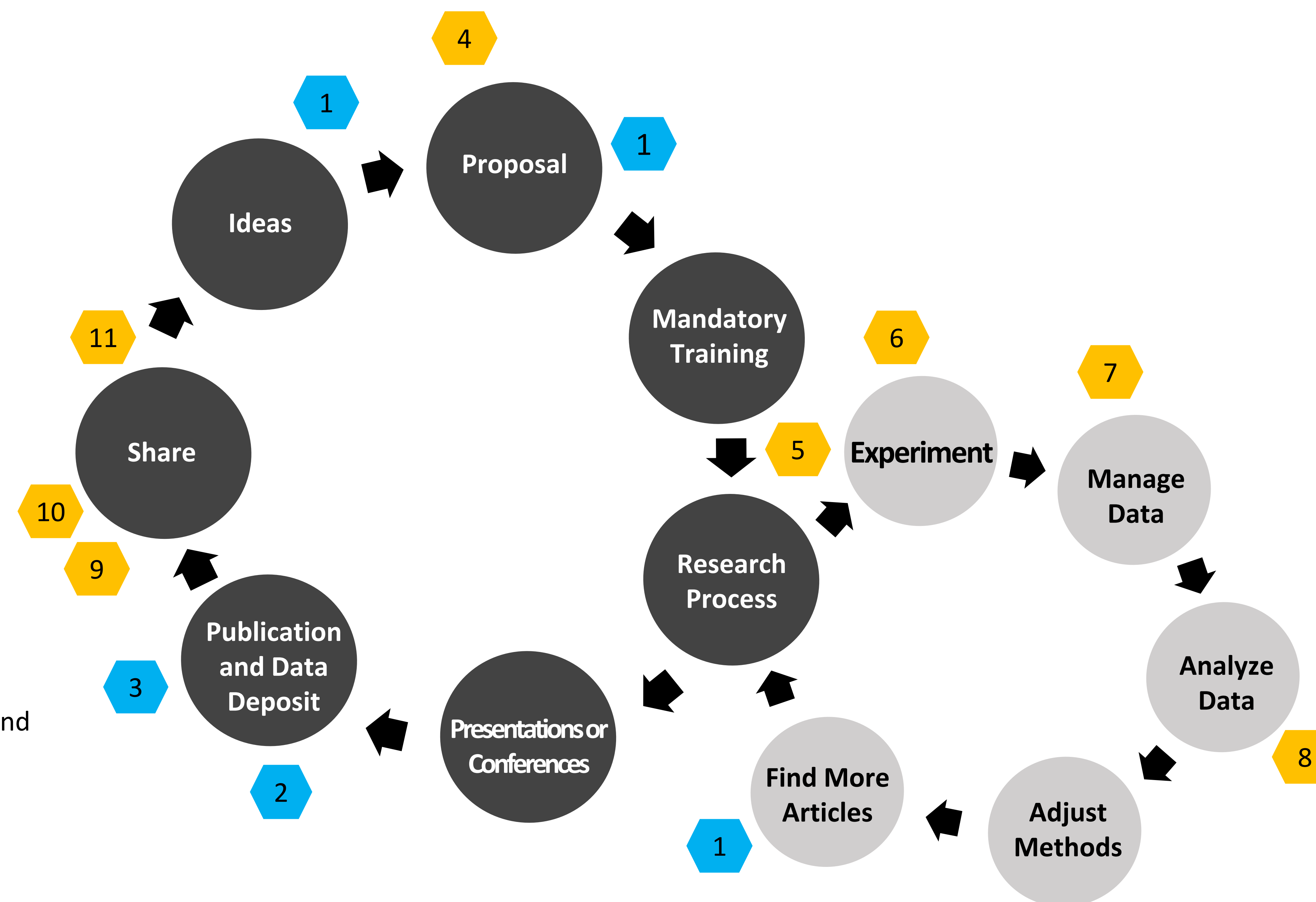
Traditional Roles

- ✓ 1 Literature search assistance.
- ~ 2 Find journals for submission.
- ✓ 3 Bibliography assistance.

Additional Informationist Roles

- ✓ 4 Help with Data Management Plan and funder compliance.
- ✓ 5 Help set up and teach group citation management tool.
- ✓ 6 Teach Research Team about research data management.
- ✓ 7 Help set up and maintain research data organization.
- ~ 8 Help with data analysis and visualization.
- ✗ 9 Find data repositories.
- ~ 10 Make sure sharing is tied to ORCID and keep track of altmetrics.
- ✗ 11 Find data for reuse.

- ✓ Assistance provided
- ✗ Assistance not provided
- ~ Partial assistance provided



Benefits

Research Team

Better searches

- Extended searching to multiple subject databases.
- Strengthened database searching, especially in the areas of imaging and mathematical modeling.

Improved data management

- The data librarian facilitated the creation of a form to collect data for lab protocols that helped the group avoid significant errors.
- Basic information about data was added to folders with a ReadMe form.

Increased knowledge

- PIs now regularly scan and share search alerts created by the Informationists.
- An Informationist session on how to visualize data was developed and presented to the Research Team after identifying it as an information need.

Informationist Team

- Increased knowledge of basic science research processes, which led to the librarians developing two new workshops:
 - Data Visualization
 - Basic Science Article Critical Appraisal

Who

Informationist Team

- Library Liaisons
- School of Medicine
 - Biomedical Engineering
 - Mathematics
 - Research Data Management

Research Team

- 2 Primary Investigators (PIs)
- Mathematics
 - Biomedical Engineering
- Collaborators
- School of Medicine
 - Off-campus faculty
 - Graduate and Undergraduate Students

What

The PIs and Informationist Team were awarded a two-year National Library of Medicine Informationist Award in 2014.

The Informationist Team developed a model to utilize the skills of multiple librarians to support the increasing number of interdisciplinary and interprofessional research groups at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Librarians routinely attended the Research Team’s lab meetings and shared notes with each other to monitor researcher needs.