Collaborating to Improve Collaboration: Informationist Team Support for an Interdisciplinary Research Group.

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Informationist Team
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

The PIs and Informationist Team were awarded a National Library of Medicine Informationist Award in 2014. The Informationist Team hopes to show that this model, utilizing the skills of multiple librarians, is a viable way to support the increasing number of interdisciplinary and interprofessional research groups at the university who need help from embedded librarians. By working as a group, the Informationist Team is able to help in many new roles.

Traditional Roles
1. Help with literature search.
2. Help find journals for submission.
3. Help format bibliography.

Additional Informationist Roles
5. Help set up and teach group citation management tool.
6. Teach students, staff, etc. about research data management.
7. Help set up and maintain research data organization.
8. Help with data analysis and visualization.
10. Make sure sharing is tied to ORCID and keep track of altmetrics.
11. Find data for reuse.

So far:
- **Literature searching**: Extended searching to multiple subject databases. Strengthened PubMed searching, especially in areas of imaging and mathematical modeling.
- **Citation management**: Help with Zotero.
- **General library help**: Finding protocols, books, articles, etc.
- **Data management**: Interviewed team members. Developed a basic metadata form for research folders and working to add this form to all folders. Testing a data input form to streamline data collection during experiments.
- **Attend lab meetings**: Easier to receive and answer questions as they come up.
- **Data visualization**: Presented as part of Journal Club and make suggestions during lab meetings.

Survey Results
After 1 Year (n=7)
- 5 of 7 had worked with Informationists, found what they needed, and saved time.
- “Having someone who knows database searching helped save me time.”
- “Found sources I may not have otherwise.”

Changes from Pre-Survey (n=3)
- Moved from school server to cloud for storage of data, documents, etc.
- Recognized data management as important to work.

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