Exploring Organizational Approaches to Research Data in Academic Libraries: Which Archetype Fits Your Library?

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DESCRIPTION

Organizational structure influences the way work is conducted. As academic libraries are extending their services to research data, there is a deficit of research on the interaction of organizational structure and data services. How are college and research libraries organized to deliver data management services? This ethnographic study seeks to address this question.

Study Goals:
- Identify archetypes of data services and libraries with such services to sample
- Understand organizational approaches of academic libraries in the sample

This poster reports preliminary results from the first phase of the study.

METHODS

This poster is part of a larger ethnographic study employing a multi-method case study design, including a literature review, artifact collection, and qualitative interviews.

The first phase of the study employed a literature review to identify library data service approaches. The authors conducted a search in Google Scholar and multiple library literature databases using terms such as academic libraries, college and research libraries, research data management services, data curation, data archiving, and data consulting to identify articles. Articles were selected to represent a variety of institutions and countries. A total of 1 book and 11 articles were selected, representing 22 academic libraries. Content analysis identified five data service archetypes that exist in the literature.

DATA SERVICE ARCHETYPES - WHERE DOES YOUR LIBRARY FIT?

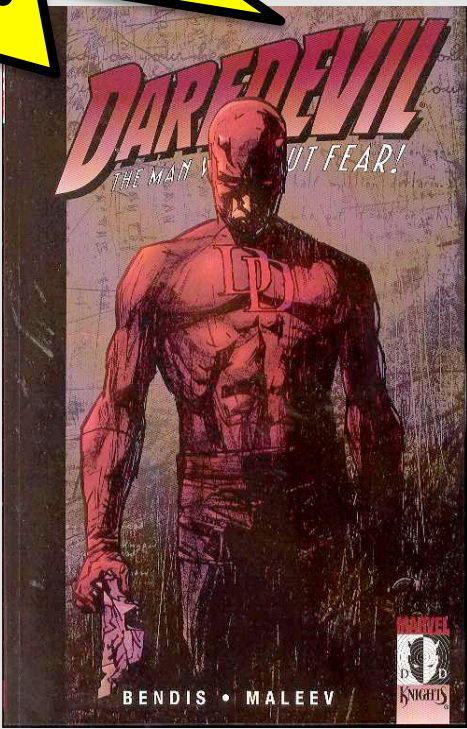**Place a pin by your library's archetype.**

NASCENT INITIATIVE

This type encompasses libraries where the data services are unclear and still emerging. These organizations often are testing a limited number of services and have limited staff dedicated to these efforts.

SOLO LIBRARIAN

This approach assigns RDMS responsibility to a single person, such as a research data librarian, within the library. The RDMS librarian is a generalist role, working across the data lifecycle. No additional staff have been formally designated to RDMS.

DEDICATED WORKING GROUP

This model consists of an informal approach pulling staff from different library and campus units to develop and implement RDMS. These teams do not have a formal designation within the library's organization.

Justice League

MULTIFUNCTIONAL TEAM

This approach adds RDMS functions to an existing library team (e.g., preservation, digital initiatives, scholarly communication). The team has formal recognition within the library organization.

Fantastic Four

SPECIALIZED TEAM

This archetype represents the appointment of a new team for research data, designating RDMS roles and staff. The team is represented in the library organization chart.

X-Men

IS YOUR ARCHETYPE MISSING?

?

NEXT STEPS

- The next steps of the study include a case interview and collection of organizational documents (e.g., organization charts, service descriptions).
- We are looking for volunteers who are willing to participate in the case study interviews in the next phase of research.

Want to participate? Leave us your card.