

OCLC Research Update

March–May 2017

Case studies in research data management

In response to the growing importance of research data management (RDM), OCLC Research is examining the context, influences and choices research institutions face in building or acquiring RDM capacity. The project is centered on detailed case studies of four research universities: University of Edinburgh (UK), University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign (US), Monash University (Australia) and Wageningen University and Research Centre (Netherlands).



In addition to developing a framework for understanding the scope of the RDM service space, the project will isolate general decision points applicable to RDM capacity acquisition across many institutional contexts. This project extends earlier OCLC Research studies that document significant trends shaping the 21st century scholarly record.

This new work will be released as a four-part series—look for the first part, which will focus on introducing RDM and the RDM service space, available for download April 2017.

More information: oclc.org/case-studies-in-rdm

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The state of digitization in US public and state libraries

This new report from OCLC research identifies the extent to which public libraries are digitizing their collections and contributing to the national digital platform. It also discusses the obstacles, opportunities and partnerships that can impact digitization activities. The findings will help public libraries, funders, service providers and state library agencies determine how to work cooperatively to support further digitization efforts.

Advancing the National Digital Platform: The State of Digitization in US Public and State Libraries is available to download for free, as are data supplements and raw data.

More information:

oclc.org/advancing-national-digital-platform

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Web archiving metadata working group

Web archiving has become imperative to ensure that our digital heritage does not disappear forever, yet many institutions have not yet begun this work. In addition, archived websites are not easily discoverable, which severely limits their use. To address this challenge, OCLC Research has established a working group to develop a data dictionary that will be compatible with library and archives standards, while also pinpointing issues that are unique to description of websites. Two surveys have revealed that the most pervasive challenge faced by both librarians and users is the lack of descriptive metadata guidelines. The second most-cited challenge is understanding the needs of users who seek to use website content, so the group conducted a literature review that revealed a wide array of user needs and perspectives.

We will publish three reports on the project in 2017. One focuses on user needs and behaviors, a second is dedicated to the evaluation of web archiving tools, and a third contains best practices guidelines.

More information: oc.lc/wam

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INFLUENCE LIBRARY RESEARCH AS PART OF THE OCLC RESEARCH LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP

Joining the Partnership provides a unique transnational collaborative network of peers to address common issues. It is a venue for libraries to undertake significant, innovative, collective action, extending libraries' internal R&D capacities. The Partnership magnifies the leadership and direction of partner libraries and influences the field of librarianship.

More information: oc.lc/partnership

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Demystifying IT for digital archivists

Management of born-digital archival materials is the biggest and most complex challenge currently facing the archival profession. As a result, archivists have new reasons to work closely with IT professionals to acquire, implement and manage appropriate hardware and software. This May, OCLC Research will publish a primer for archivists new to working with IT professionals with the intent to help digital archivists understand the priorities, techniques and culture of information technology so that they can be the most effective possible collaborators.

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Monika Sengul-Jones is new Wikipedian-in-Residence

Monika Sengul-Jones has joined OCLC as the Wikipedian-in-Residence for Wikipedia + Libraries: Better Together, a project led by OCLC's WebJunction program. Monika will work with WebJunction to design and deliver an online training program that will introduce US public librarians to the innerworkings of Wikipedia later in 2017. The training will enable librarians to edit Wikipedia, guide patrons in its use and lead local Wikipedia-based community engagement programs with confidence. In her role, Monika will also foster connections between public librarians and Wikipedia's volunteer editor community. The project is supported with funding by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and by the Wikimedia Foundation.



Learn more about Wikipedia + Libraries: Better Together and Sengul-Jones on the project page.

More information: oc.lc/oclc-wikilib

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