Explore practices and patterns in global research information management

Research information management (RIM) systems, AKA current research information systems (CRISs), are gaining interest and attention worldwide for their contribution in dealing with new policies on open science, research funding, and national assessment. To examine the state of RIM practices worldwide, OCLC Research and euroCRIS jointly developed a web-based survey that yielded 381 responses from 44 countries.

Now, the resulting report, Practices and Patterns in Research Information Management: Findings from a Global Survey, written by a working group comprised of experts from both organizations, details the complexity of research information management practices. It examines how commercial and open-source platforms are becoming widely implemented across regions, coexisting with many region-specific solutions as well as locally developed systems. It also considers the factors that have led to the need for complex, cross-stakeholder teams to support institutional RIM activities, which increasingly includes the library.

In addition to the report, the full data set and more are available at oc.lc/rimsurvey.

New report examines library and university directions

Supported in part by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, OCLC Research and Ithaka S+R have published the report University Futures, Library Futures: Aligning library strategies with institutional directions, which establishes a new framework for understanding the fit between emerging library service paradigms and university types.

As libraries move away from a collections model in which libraries measure their success by how large their collections are, this report puts a framework around library services, explores emerging patterns in different institutional settings, and gauges the importance of these services areas—now and for the future—according to surveyed library directors.

The work has three main components: a working model of US higher education institutions, a library services framework that covers nine key areas, and a comparison of the above two to test the hypothesis that the services portfolio of libraries map onto the institutional priorities of their host universities. Read the full report at oc.lc/uff-report.
OCLC awarded IMLS grant to help libraries respond to opioid epidemic

OCLC® has been awarded a National Leadership Grant by IMLS to support public libraries considering a community-based response to the opioid crisis. In partnership with the Public Library Association, OCLC Research will produce eight case studies from varied communities in which the public library is already playing a role in responding to the opioid crisis. The project team will glean additional perspectives and insights from federal government agencies, public health and human services organizations, community organizations, and library leaders.

In addition to the case studies, the project team will create a call-to-action white paper and WebJunction webinar series, moderate a Facebook group, and curate content and resources for library staff across the country. Learn more about the project at oc.lc/opioid-crisis.

Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces begins second round

In partnership with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries and with a grant from IMLS, OCLC’s WebJunction® team guided 15 small, rural libraries through a customized design thinking process to re-envision existing library space to better support active learning. Each library worked with its community to discover needs, ideate, prototype, build, and implement these “smart” spaces, which are igniting new partnerships, programming, and initiatives for the future. Now, with supplemental IMLS funding, WebJunction will guide a second cohort of 15 small public libraries this year. Visit oc.lc/smartspaces to read stories of transformation that testify to the creativity and tenacity of these small communities and libraries, and enroll in the free self-paced course, Making Space for Active Learning.

New self-paced course teaches libraries how to ‘supercharge’ storytime

WebJunction’s updated Supercharged Storytimes free self-paced course launched in October and more than 1,400 people have already enrolled. Supercharged Storytimes is a research-based program that teaches storytime practitioners how to become a cornerstone in children’s early literacy development by implementing some simple practices that promote learning. Practitioners in the self-paced course are engaging in robust online discussions and sharing ideas about how to improve library storytimes as they work through the course’s core content, applied learning, and reflection questions.

WebJunction recently concluded a Facilitator Training for Supercharged Storytimes with approximately 100 participants who are now prepared to lead groups of learners through the Supercharged Storytimes self-paced course. The Facilitator Guide developed for the training is available to anyone who would like to use it in a Learning Group. Find out more at oc.lc/supercharged.
Findings released from international linked data survey

OCLC conducted the third iteration of the International Linked Data Survey for Implementers in 2018 and now the results are synthesized and available in several forms. The survey garnered responses from 81 institutions, describing 104 linked data projects or services. Of the 104 linked data implementations, only 42 had been described previously. A few highlights:

- More respondents reported that their linked data project or service was successful or “mostly” successful in 2018 than in 2015 (56% compared to 41%); fewer didn’t know yet as their projects were still at an early stage.
- Among the top ten linked data sources consumed, the biggest change was the surge in consuming Wikidata, more than four times that reported by respondents in 2015. There were also big increases in consuming WorldCat.org™ and ISNI.

Read more in the article “Analysis of 2018 International Linked Data Survey for Implementers” by project lead Karen Smith-Yoshimura in the November 2018 issue of the Code4Lib Journal. You can also watch a Works in Progress webinar recording in which she walks through the responses at oc.lc/ld-survey.

OCLC Research considers how data repositories create trust and encourage use

OCLC researchers Ixchel Faniel and Chris Cyr are collaborating with the University of Michigan School of Information to study how data repositories can create trust and encourage continued use among scholars. Repositories have devoted considerable resources to developing trust in their data by implementing third-party standards such as the ISO TRAC, Data Seal of Approval, and CoreTrustSeal, but what impact are they having?

Using data from a survey of 374 scholars who have reused data from the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), some things Faniel and Cyr are examining include six key drivers of trust (integrity, benevolence, transparency, identification, structural assurance, and performance expectancy), social influence, and whether trust interacts with data reuse experience and scarcity of data to drive continued use of ICPSR.

This work is the latest research from the IMLS-funded Dissemination Information Packages for Information Reuse (DIPIR) project. Find out more information about DIPIR at oc.lc/dipir.

Linked Data Wikibase Prototype Project wraps up

In 2017 and 2018, 16 research, academic, public, and federal libraries joined with OCLC in a joint research project prototyping a new suite of linked data services. This unique project uses the out-of-the-box services from Wikibase and a high-quality set of name entities available from FAST, VIAF®, and Wikidata to prototype services. The suite of services includes:

- a reconciliation service to connect legacy bibliographic information with linked data entities
- a service to view, create, and edit linked data entity descriptions and relationships

Learn about the prototype at oc.lc/linkeddataresearch and look for a report on this project coming later in 2019.
OCLC Research Library Partnership to host events in Australia, US

The 2019 OCLC Research & Resource Sharing Forum, Australia and New Zealand, will take place 11 February at the University of Sydney, immediately prior to the ALIA Information Online 2019 Conference. The forum, led by the OCLC Research Library Partnership (RLP), will convene leaders in academic and research libraries and will focus on trends and strategic challenges particularly related to resource sharing and research data management (RDM). During the RDM session, RLP program officers will share findings specific to Australia and New Zealand, and will facilitate action-oriented discussions on the topic. OCLC researchers will also attend the ALIA conference, including Lynn Silipigni Connaway, who will lead a workshop on ethnographic data collection and analysis techniques, and present a keynote speech on qualitative research methods.

In April, the RLP will host the OCLC RLP Research Retreat: An Opportunity to Engage, Reflect, and Plan, an event in Dublin, Ohio, that offers research library leaders at partner institutions a synthesis of principal “big picture” issues informing research libraries today; time to reflect on how OCLC Research findings inform leadership at your own institution; a collective and supportive environment for doing this with other library leaders at RLP institutions; and an opportunity to inform how the RLP provides future support.

Learn more about these events and more at oclc.org/research.

OCLC ResearchWorks holds debut event focused on data science

OCLC invites researchers working in data science, data architecture, and experimental application development to join OCLC research scientists, architects, and software engineers at this inaugural event 25–26 April in Dublin, Ohio. “OCLC ResearchWorks: Data Science Explained, Demonstrated, and Shared” will go beyond theoretical exploration into advanced ideation and hands-on R&D activities including: project planning, data modeling, data and system architecture, ontology creation, and application prototyping and development. Find out more and register for this free event at oc.lc/researchworks-event.

Share your library’s efforts in open access by 31 January

OCLC’s Global Council of library leaders is conducting an international survey on library use and support of open content/open access resources. The goal of the survey is to engage a global audience of librarians to map and align open content activities and cultivate a shared understanding of how libraries are invested in and working together to leverage open content from around the globe. All library types are encouraged to complete the survey by 31 January at oc.lc/oasurvey.

OCLC Research is one of the world’s leading centers devoted exclusively to the challenges facing libraries, archives, and museums in a rapidly changing information technology environment. We work to activate communities of practice to produce knowledge, evidence, and models that help libraries plan with confidence, position with effect, and make an impact.