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Professional Materials

Karen Antell, Editor

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How can libraries best plan, create, and maintain spaces that
foster learning? Although many library buildings have
classrooms for formal instruction, more and more libraries
are developing and supporting informal spaces where learn-
ting takes place outside of the classroom, whether for groups
of students or for individuals. This collection takes it as a
given that libraries have always been learning spaces, but it
specifically examines how two changes—our understand-
ing of learning processes and the impact of technology on
learning—have transformed the planning, organization, and
management of academic library buildings.

The collection’s scope is global; its first section focuses on
case studies from six libraries in the United Kingdom, the
United States, China, and Australia. Several commonalities
emerge: These libraries all focus on situating the library as the
geographic and symbolic center of learning on campus and
connecting the library to its educational, environmental, and
cultural contexts. They also offer a variety of spaces within
the library—places for private study and public interaction,
as well as semi-private spaces where learners can concentrate
but also be energized by the community of learners around
them. An example of this is the translucent “study igloos” at
the Saltire Centre at Glasgow Caledonian University. Each
case study in this section is headed by a keyword, such as
flexibility, balance, silence, or ecology, that encapsulates the
theme of the building project.

A theoretical section addresses wider, more universal
concepts, such as technology and learning theory, as they
pertain to the space planning and renovation process. A final
section on the futures of library planning operates as a toolkit
to help readers think about library learning spaces. Chapters
not only address the actions and needs of the people—stu-
dents, faculty, researchers, staff, and visitors—in libraries, but
also address the objects and services in libraries, especially
how the first consideration of any project should be how the
interactions of users, objects, and services support learning.
Overall, this collection, in particular the case studies and the
practical information in the last section, will be invaluable for
administrators, librarians, architects, and others embarking
on a library building or renovation project.—Laura Braun-
stein, Librarian for English and Writing, Dartmouth College,
Hanover, New Hampshire

Data Management for Libraries. A LITA Guide. By Laura
Krier and Carly A. Strasser. Chicago: ALA TechSource,

This volume in the LITA Guide series adds to a number of
recent publications about data management. Writing pri-
marily for an academic audience, authors Krier and Strasser
provide a succinct but thorough introduction to help librar-
ians learn fundamentals of data management and to guide
them in assessing their institutions’ needs so that they can

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OK 73019; e-mail: kantell@ou.edu.
develop an appropriate array of services. The current digital era presents growing opportunities for librarians to both support researchers and to assist them in complying with funding agencies’ requirements for data management plans in grant proposals and progress reports. A major theme is that librarians should draw on their traditional strength in working collaboratively, and that broad communication is crucial to engage multiple stakeholders, including researchers who generate data, information technology professionals, and research office administrators. Librarians can make valuable contributions to institutional data management by applying their knowledge about how information is created, stored, made discoverable and accessible, and preserved to the challenges of managing data in digital and other formats. Additionally, librarians can educate researchers about ethics and copyright concerns as they work together to establish appropriate plans for data sharing over time. The book is organized logically, opening with a chapter that provides a basic overview of data management. The authors offer thoughtful, practical recommendations to help librarians facilitate the process of assessing local needs and establishing services that they can realistically provide. Checklists and questions in many chapters of this book will serve readers well as they gather local information and analyze their institutional needs regarding crucial aspects of research data, such as types of data generated, appropriate metadata creation and standards, ethics and intellectual property rights, and mechanisms for short- and long-term data storage, access, preservation, and reuse. Other topics featured include data management interviews, metadata, preservation, access, and data governance. Appendixes provide resources for institutional repositories, samples of data librarian job descriptions, and data management plans. Ample references to relevant publications and websites lead to valuable further reading, and several links point to examples of supportive guidance that many libraries provide to the researchers at their universities and research centers. Library professionals will find this book useful and accessible, especially those who are unfamiliar with data management. After reading this introductory text, librarians may wish to pursue additional recent publications that offer numerous case studies and slightly more detailed descriptions of existing repositories and standards for creating viable metadata and for preservation. Related titles include Research Data Management: Practical Strategies for Information Professionals (Purdue University Press, 2014) and Delivering Research Management Services (Facet Publishing, 2014).—Flora Shrode, Head of Reference and Instruction Services, Utah State University Library, Logan, Utah


A how-to guide for large research institutions, Delivering Research Data Management Services: Fundamentals of Good Practice gives readers a short history of the proliferation of research data and then takes the reader through the fundamentals of creating and administering a sustainable research data management (RDM) service.

Constructing and managing a successful RDM service requires commitment and participation from various institutional players and constituencies. Delivering Research Data Management Services provides very clear reasoning on why institutions need a well-designed and well-articulated RDM plan. For instance, various government and funding agencies now require researchers to include a research data plan in grant applications. In addition, well-preserved and accessible data offers many potential benefits to future research. The book also discusses how different constituencies must work together and what special interests each may bring to the planning process.

Creating a research data plan with input from university management, support services, and researchers may be a complex process, but, according to the authors, it can be accomplished with thoughtful planning and guidance.

The book includes helpful charts and graphs to illustrate concepts visually as well as definitions of common terminology. Many of the illustrations would be particularly helpful for use during planning meetings. Chapters focus on the state of research data management, various approaches to RDM, sustainability, infrastructure, roles, and services.

Much of the latter half of the book is devoted to a variety of approaches to RDM through case studies from institutions in several countries. These case studies include instances where the university’s library took a leading role, a case of a national research data management service, and several other models. The case studies are especially insightful because they are written by individuals from each institution involved in the creation of the RDM system discussed.

The types of data discussed are diverse, and the needs of researchers and institutions are equally varied.

Delivering Research Data Management Services: Fundamentals of Good Practice breaks down the preparation and implementation process into accessible steps and presents clear reasoning for why planning is important. The first chapters of the book are based on examples and policy from the United Kingdom, but the structure of the plans presented could be applied to the United States or other countries. Many of the citations in the chapters are only web addresses that may shift over time; including the titles of the webpages might be useful for future access.

Delivering Research Data Management Services: Fundamentals of Good Practice will be a helpful resource for institutions, administrators, and researchers trying to plan a cohesive and coherent research data management service. It will also serve as useful background reading for those simply interested in e-Science and big research data. Recommended for academic libraries at large research institutions.—Rachel Hamelers, Reference Librarian and Math and Science Subject Specialist, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania