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Ithaka S+R's Research Support Services: Recommendations for

Addressing the Needs of Chemists and Historians

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What is Research Support Services?

- » Libraries and other service providers must design and implement new services to meet the changing needs of researchers
- » To be scholar-centric, planning must accommodate field- or discipline-specific practices and needs
- » We have begun opportunistically with a number of fields – history and chemistry now being completed, art history just being launched
- » We plan to cover enough fields to be able to make recommendations to libraries regarding services and implications for organizational design and staffing

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History

Funded by the NEH, focused on US academic historians

Report is available at

www.sr.ithaka.org

<http://j.mp/XIsEX7>

Historians as Library users

- » Historians are dedicated users of all types of library materials.
- » Archives and special collections are vital to historians' research. Historians often develop close relationships with archivists.

Historians: “Google is the first port of call.”

“Even some pretty obscure things have landed in there ... Because if...they are public domain, ... I can just download them and use them at my leisure... Being able to do keyword searches, within PDFs of books is awesome. That’s what I would say, more of that please!”

Google Books is of singular importance for historians, used on its own, in conjunction with the library, and even with their own texts.

Historians: “Overwhelming” access

Tools that permit historians to discover more sources than ever before has produced increasing anxiety about about comprehensiveness.

Can services be organized around finding everything rather than something?

“It’s overwhelming, knowing how much information is available to me now.”

“The bottle neck used to be access to information. That’s not the case today.”

Historians: Unbundling Access and Analysis

Historians conduct far less analysis sitting in an archives than they once did, raising needs for improved approaches to primary source discovery, new roles for the research archivist, and perhaps new opportunities for unlocking collections



Historians: Organizing Research Materials



Practices for achieving intellectual control in the analytical work of historical research have not evolved significantly to meet the needs brought on by an increasing breadth of sources

“There’s almost no training with methodology and what you actually do in the archive and why that matters. ...There are larger philosophical questions about what an archive is.”

Graduate students in many programs receive little or no training in research methods or practices. In some cases, archivists are key in helping them “learn on the job.”

History: Services Needs

Archives Describe, digitize, and make discoverable collections, provide expertise, facilitate use of digital cameras.

Libraries Ensure collections access and discovery; improve availability of expertise.

**History
Departments** Improve PhD student training in new practices, new methods, the use of archives, and writing a proposal.

**Collection
Providers** Offer more information about collection scope and integrate non-textual and non-English materials.

**Citation
Management** Improve integration with notes management and organization tools.

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Chemistry

Funded by JISC, focused on UK academic chemists

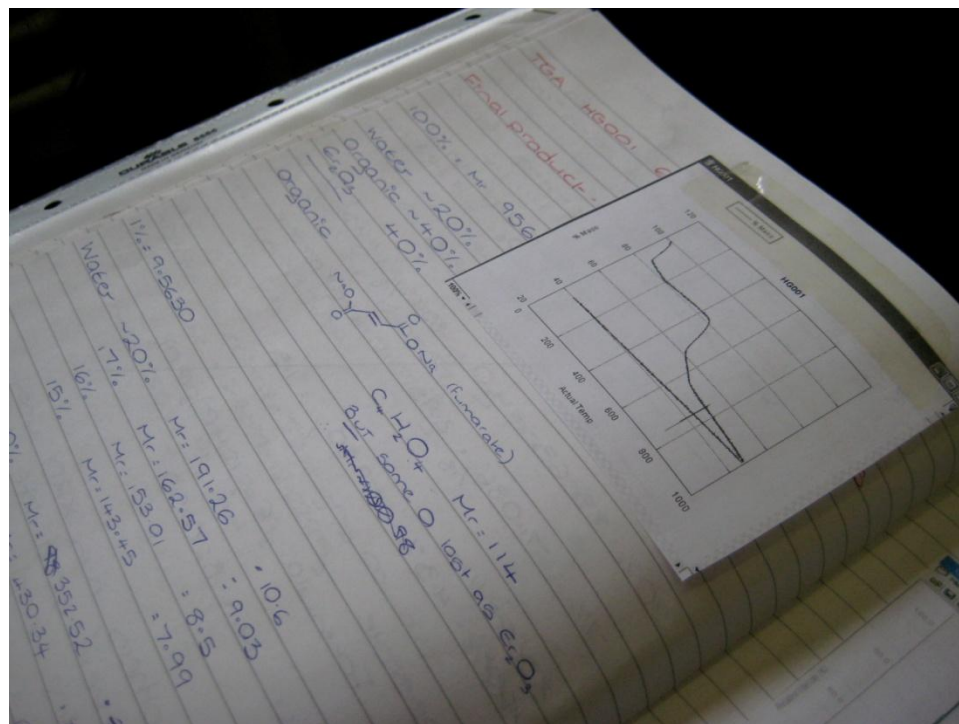
Report is forthcoming
January/February 2013

- » U.K. chemists are very satisfied with their library collections, but otherwise have little contact with their libraries.
- » The physical library is increasingly viewed as a space for undergraduates.
- » Understaffed libraries cannot afford to devote all of a staff member's time to the chemistry department.

Chemists: Labs, not Researchers

Chemistry labs are small independent teams that work toward common research goals.

Libraries and other service providers have to think about the goals of the group, rather than the individual.



Data Management

Data management remains a challenge in most chemistry labs—there is not a conscious curation and preservation process.

Guidance on data management in the lab may be an important service that libraries can offer to chemists.



“Keeping up” with the Literature




Electronic journals have changed the way that chemists interact with the literature in their subfields.

“Keeping up” with the current literature has become a challenge for chemists. They need new ways of sifting through information.

Funding and Impact Are Twin Concerns

Public funding for a chemistry lab in the UK is increasingly tied to the impact of scholarship. Supporting the dissemination of scholarship and the acquisition of funding, both from government and industry, are vital.



The screenshot shows the EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council) website. The browser address bar displays www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/grants/Pages/az.aspx#sk. The website header features the EPSRC logo with the tagline "Pioneering research and skills" and the full name of the council. A navigation menu includes links to Home, Our portfolio, Funding (which is highlighted), Our plans, News, events & publications, and About us. A left-hand sidebar lists various funding categories, with "Funding Schemes" highlighted in orange. The main content area, titled "Funding Schemes", provides an overview of the council's flexible funding schemes and lists specific opportunities: Doctoral Training Grants, Fellowships, and a First grant scheme for new academics. A "See also" box on the right suggests links to the application and review process and Grants on the Web (GoW).

EPSRC
Pioneering research and skills
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

Home | Our portfolio | **Funding** | Our plans | News, events & publications | About us

Funding ▾
Grants available ▾
Funding Schemes
Research base funding ▾
New academics ▾
Connecting with business ▾
New ideas and networking ▾
International grants available ▾
Research capacity grants available ▾
Public engagement - funding available ▾
Calls ▾

Home > Funding > Grants available > **Funding Schemes**

Funding Schemes

EPSRC operates a small number of flexible funding schemes. Details of **how to apply for EPSRC funding**, and **our current funded portfolio**, are also available.

Doctoral Training Grant
Doctoral Training Grants are awarded to universities based on research grant income. These grants may also be used to fund some forms of collaborative training.

Fellowships
Funding to help researchers spend their time on research. We are developing a new flexible framework for research career support which will focus fellowship support where growth in capability is required and where emerging leaders are able to integrate their work into the wider research landscape. The new approach will be introduced over summer 2011.

First grant scheme
Research grants for new academics in their first appointment, including most fellowship holders. No closing dates.

See also
[Application and review process](#)
[Grants on the Web \(GoW\)](#)

Chemistry: Services Needs (Preliminary)

Discovery Create highly customizable and efficient alerting service, restore serendipity, rethink the review article.

Research Management Provide services for recording, organizing, and sharing raw data and other information within the research lab group.

Research Dissemination Provide analysis and advice to help chemists maximize the impact of their scholarship and secure future funding.

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Discussion

- » **How can libraries and archives provide the expertise needed by historians?**
- » **Beyond collections, how can libraries best support chemists?**
- » **Discovery needs differ remarkably between chemists and historians. How can services support each of them?**
- » **Do you see implications for organizational design beginning to emerge from these projects?**
- » **What other fields would you like to see covered?**

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Thank You

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