Turning threads into whole cloth

The Library’s Role in Unifying, Enhancing, and Disseminating Research Information

Dale Askey (@daskey),
Jay Brodeur,
McMaster University Library

Slides: u.mcmaster.ca/cni18s
Outline

- Broader context [2 mins]
- Requirements & needs [2 mins]
- Implementation [5 mins]
- Challenges & solutions [8 mins]
- What comes next [1 min]
- Recommendations & takeaways [2 mins]
Medical-doctoral, research intensive

Hamilton, ON, CA

26,780 UG
4,485 GS

949 full-time faculty

$405,300 per faculty
Acronyms and terms

**Systems**
- RIMS (CRIS)
- Elements
- Symplectic
- VIVO

**People & Groups**
- VPR
- RHPCS
- Faculty
- faculty
Problems & Needs
Web chaos

Michael Egan, Ph.D. (Washington State)

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I am an associate professor and University Teaching Fellow in the History Department. I am trained as a US environmental historian. I was hired to teach the histories of science and technology. Much of my teaching and research involves global examinations of the recent past. I like to resist being pigeon-holed.

Teaching: My courses typically investigate how science, technology, and society have interacted across time and place, putting particular emphasis on society’s influence on the production and consumption of knowledge. I was the recipient of the 2013 Peter. Canada Young Innovator Award.
Issues

Currency
Consistency
Accuracy
Manual labour
Repeated entry
Challenges

No central RIMS
Multiplicity of systems across campus
Zero interoperability
No identity management solution
University Library partnered with RHPCS to apply for campus funding to deploy VIVO
University Library partnered with RHPCS to apply for campus funding to deploy VIVO

Secured $148,000 CAD for project; began scoping and planning; funds for PM, hardware, staff labour buyout
McMaster Data Sources
- Mosaic Data Warehouse
- IRA Publication Data
- CSU - MacFacts
- CSU – ATP
- Faculty CVs (+ Manual Imports)
- Faculty Member Submissions

External Data Sources
- Symplectic Elements
- Staff & Faculty Directory
- VIVO Harvester
- ORCID
- CPA / OPR
- Departmental Webpages
- MacSphere (Inst. Repositories)
- Identity Management

Affiliations
- Memberships
- Articles

Potential Information Providers
- UTS (Mosaic, Faculty & Staff Directory)
- CSU (MacFACTS, ATP)
- MUL
- IRA
- ROADS
- Research Finance
- CPA / OPR
- Faculty Members
- Departmental Delegates
- Research Assistants

Potential Information Users
- Internal Operations
  - IRA, Advancement
  - Communication and Public Affairs
  - VPR, ROADS, MILO
  - Research Finance,
  - Office of Public Relations,
  - Marketing
  - VP Offices,
  - Alumni relations
  - MUL (MacSphere), MacFacts
  - Business Intelligence

- External Audiences
  - Industry
  - Media outlets
  - Community groups
  - Other Universities
  - External researchers
  - Funding agencies
  - Students (current and potential)
  - Parents
  - Municipalities
  - Research Data Canada (RDC)
  - General Public

Acronyms / Initialisms
- UTS: University Technology Services
- CSU: Computer Services Unit
- MUL: McMaster University Library
- IRA: Institutional Research & Analysis
- ROADS: Research Office for Administration, Development and Support
- CPA: Communications & Public Affairs
- OPR: Office of Public Relations
- MILO: McMaster Industry Liason Office
- VPR: Office of the Vice President, Research

Oct 2016 - Apr 2017
HR Data Warehouse

Automated Processing

Faculty

Non-faculty

publication harvesting

biographical information

RIMS [Elements]

publication claiming

scholarly activities

McMaster Experts (VIVO)

Internal Systems (Reuse)

Apr 2017 - Oct 2017
My publications

- Carbon, water and energy exchange dynamics of a young pine plantation forest during the initial fourteen years of growth
  - Forest Ecology and Management 410:12-26 (15 pages) 15 Feb 2018

- Delineating Hummocky Terrain: A Field-Based Approach
  - Fitz-Ritson M, Brodeur JJ, Maclachlan JC, Eyles CH
  - Cartographica: The international Journal for Geographic Information and Geovisualization 52(2):141-152 Jun 2017

- Short-term selective thinning effects on hydraulic functionality of a temperate pine forest in eastern Canada
  - Skuobel RA, Khomik M, Brodeur JJ, Thome R, Aran MA
  - Ecohydrology 10(1):11 pages Article number ARTN e1780 01 Jan 2017

- Current Use and Prospective Future of the University Map Library: A Case Study of Multiple Perspectives From One Institution
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From IQ to blood pressure, we should not be complacent about lead  APR 4

Dr. Milena Head, Professor, Information Systems
DeGroote School of Business

Manage my Profile
Sheila Singh
Associate Professor, Surgery

Dr. Sheila Singh is an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery and Biochemistry. She is the Director of the Surgeon-Scientist Program, Director of the Pediatric Brain Tumour Study Group, and a Scientist appointed to the Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute (SCCRI). She holds a Canada Research Chair in Human Cancer Stem Cell Biology. Dr. Singh received her M.D. from McMaster University. Her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology, and her Doctorate of Neurosurgery are from the University of...

Affiliations

- McMaster University
- Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University
- Associate Member, Biochemistry & Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Associate Member, Pediatrics, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Associate Professor, Surgery, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Canada Research Chair in Human Cancer Stem Cell Biology, McMaster University, 2007 -

Scholarly Activity in McMaster Experts

118 in the last 10 full years

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Websites

- Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute
Sheila Singh
Associate Professor, Surgery

Dr. Sheila Singh is an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery and Biochemistry. She is the Head of the Stem Cell Research Group, Director of the Pediatric Brain Tumour Study Group, and a Scientist appointed to the Hamilton Health Sciences Research Institute (HHSRI). She holds a Canada Research Chair in Human Cancer Stem Cell Biology from McMaster University. Her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology, and her Doctorate of Neurosurgery are from McMaster University.

Affiliations
- McMaster University
- Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University
- Associate Member, Biochemistry & Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Associate Member, Pediatrics, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Associate Professor, Surgery, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Canada Research Chair in Human Cancer Stem Cell Biology, McMaster University, 2007 -

Scholarly Activity
- 118 in the last 10 full years

CO-AUTHOR NETWORK

MAP OF SCIENCE
A TALE OF TWO CHRISTOPHERS

As a neurosurgery student, Sheila Singh was on a six-month rotation at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children when she met two little boys named Christopher.

TWO FACULTY NAMED TO THE COLLEGE OF NEW SCHOLARS, ARTISTS AND SCIENTISTS

The latest cohort of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists includes two McMaster researchers who will be among the first in their field.
Governance System

RIMS (Elements)

HR Data Warehouse
Faculty

Automated Processing

publication harvesting
biographical information

publication claiming

McMaster Experts (VIVO)

Internal Systems (Reuse)

scholarly activities

non-faculty

Users

Oct 2017 - Apr 2018
Challenges & Solutions
Institutional data:

- governance,
- oversight,
- foresight
Linking within & beyond the institution
Getting faculty to buy in
Getting faculty to buy in
Resistance to curation

Just more work for faculty
See no immediate benefit
Minimal staff support
Triggers scope creep
High, perhaps unrealistic expectations
Strong interest in analysis
Website integration
Bespoke ontologies
The “Health Sciences” gorilla
949
Faculty members, per public claim

5,640
Faculty, per Experts

6x
Orders of magnitude
Classic cart/horse situation
Future Directions
feedback

crazy idea

feedback

feature request

feedback

bug report

great idea

feature request

actions we can take and sustain
Final Thoughts & Takeaways
This was a success
  ○ ...and so can you!
  ■ ...though you might not want to

It’s (mostly) all about the data

VIVO ≠ RIMS (…yet?)
Thank You

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