

Library liaison to the office of research

Understanding and building the
research enterprise's preparedness for
the changing scholarly research
landscape

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What the heck is the “research enterprise”

- Catch-all term for the campus effort towards getting (more) grant-funded research, and all of people working on getting and fulfilling grants
- The “office of research” or **central office**
 - At research (R3–R1) universities, this is probably a much more complicated place than you think it is
- **Departmental** research administrators, proposal developers, and upper administrators (e.g. ADRs)
- Core facilities! Also centers, institutes, and others
- Faculty postdocs clinical research teams

Why should you care?

- Maybe you shouldn't; this is time-intensive stuff!
Consider in light of your campus strategic plan
 - Does it focus on growing the research base, increasing *grant* (≠fundraising/ donation) funding, or pursuing more research Carnegie classification?
- CNI symposium proceedings: Critical roles for libraries in today's research enterprise
 - https://library.ucalgary.ca/ld.php?content_id=35088958
- OCLC report: Social Interoperability in Research Support
 - <https://www.oclc.org/research/publications/2020/oclcresearch-social-interoperability-research-support.html>

Last year's Critical Roles symposium

Some challenges this approach helps address

- Reorganization to Support New Roles group
 - Aligning skills and mindset with what researchers need and value
 - Thinking in old silos
 - Balance between deep understanding and broad support (to some extent)
- Communication and marketing new roles
 - You cannot sell what you cannot describe
 - Competition for attention; Reaching researchers where they are; Not library centric
- Partnering with the Research Office
 - Providing offices of research with an understanding of library's potential and areas for collaboration and providing a sustained sense of what is possible
 - CAUTION! They were right to point out "Building this relationship is

We mentioned what the “research enterprise” is...

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How **not** to think of the research enterprise

- Catch-all term for the campus effort towards getting (more) grant-funded research, and all of people working on getting fulfilling grants
- The “office of **the VP of research**” or **central office**
 - At research (R3–R1) universities, this is probably a much more complicated place than you think it is
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Not that we don't love upper administrators, but they're very busy folks

How is this approach different?

- Library liaison approach
- Iteratively looks for new aspects of the research enterprise (R.E.) to understand
 - Understanding Central Office departments, and looking for research professionals in decentralized roles
 - Which includes going to a lot of irrelevant meetings and events, in case unexpected needs appear
- R.E. partners needs drive library actions
- Demonstrates “social interoperability”

What's "networked information" about it?

- Pls, research administration professionals, and subject specialists do not understand technology
 - Strengths, possibilities, and realistic requirements
- Understanding technological aspects of RFAs
- Technology can be used to fix many problems
 - Examples
 - Addressing firewall issues that restrict access in classified collaborative centers

Human infrastructure, technical infrastructure

- Clear need for communication and coordination with campus information technology units.
 - "Islands" of expertise across campus.
 - Cross- and multi-institutional collaborations pose challenges.
- Research computing is specialized; researchers have distinct needs.
- I.T. can make smart people feel "dumb", unpleasant for anyone.
- How do we scale and provide continuity of services?

Talking tips

- The initial approach: Bring a concrete offering
 - Ex: "I was at your research integrity talk and heard you say that plagiarism is the most common misconduct allegation submitted to the NSF. I wondered if there would be any interest in partnering for a workshop on citation management and correct attribution?"
- Later: Emphasize that the liaison is a face of the library, but represents a team of experts in less public-facing roles
 - Lessens the person/personality uniqueness, in case of transitions
 - Shows appreciation for the team, also reminds partners

Other tips and considerations

- No one knows what you do
- And you don't know what others do or need
- It takes a long time and benefits are often years down the road. Evaluate accordingly.
- Having a strong relationship with one part of the R.E. doesn't mean you know all the possibilities

Question and answer session

The following slides are a history of our experiences, for your later reading

Contact us!

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Timeline, for your reference

The following slides look at the stages that our process went through. They are included for your reference, but for time's sake we did not discuss in presentation.

Feel free to contact us with questions!

Evolution of librarian liaison relationship with the research enterprise (R E)

around 2005

2009–2011

2012–2014

2015–2017

late 2017

2018–ongoing

NC A&T

Occasional support requests

NC A&T

Regular programming

NC A&T

Programming + extensive service

NC A&T

Researcher and Grant Support Services

NC A&T

Researcher and Grant Support libn. leaves

NC A&T

Roles divided among librarians

VCU

Research data libn., working with new R.E. team

around 2005

NC A&T

Occasional
support
requests

Contact established

- Started with the literature
 - Interdisciplinary searching
 - Alerts, especially for busy faculty
 - Metrics and highly-cited works
 - Citation management software and strategies
 - Gaps, strengths, weaknesses
 - Literature is usually throughout, not a lit review section
 - NIH now highlights “rigor of the prior research”

Steady requests

2009–2011

NC A&T

Regular
programm
ing

2012–2014

NC A&T

Programmi
ng +
extensive
service

- Included in programming
 - Training on database searching (hint: interface is like article search. Use Boolean search, field codes, and facets. But the mindset is very different.)
 - Graduate training for Responsible Conduct in Research
- “Could you come to our meeting?” from the R.E. Which led to Nina asking them, “Could I just sit in on this meeting regularly?”
 - **Realization: this is important!**
- Nina joined R.E. professional associations
 - Consider NORDP, NCURA, PRIM&R, SRAI, NGMA, ACWA, SOCRA, INSciTS. There are many more.

2015–2017

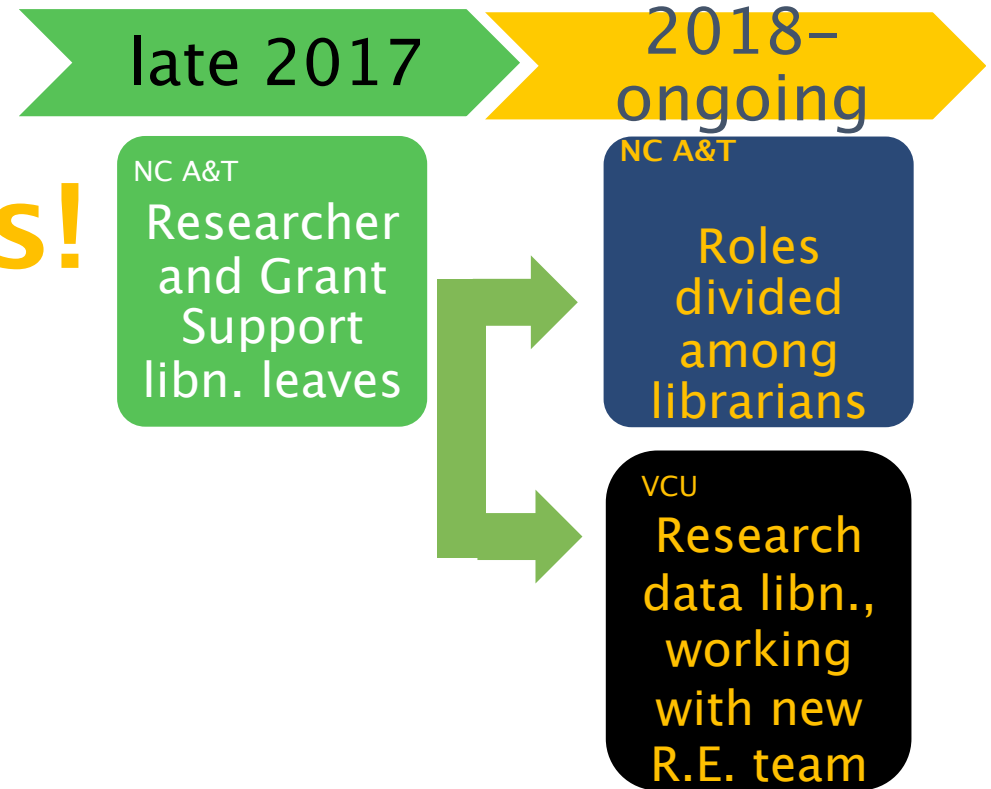
Intense, formal relationship

NC A&T
Researcher
and Grant
Support
Services

- Offered extensive training options
 - Filled in for empty trainer slots during recruitment
 - Created **Get Funded!**, a pilot program supporting early career researchers in getting their first grant
- Applied for pilot program grants
- Helped build a digital library of restricted-access content
- Committees, consultations, referrals
 - Especially niches like public access and other scholarly communication roles

Alas, a departure. But, new opportunities!

- Nina's roles distributed among many NC A&T librarians
- Stephen's blend of systems and communication was ideal for many of DOPED's needs



NC A&T now

- DORED and the Bluford Library still working together
 - Limited submissions peer review committee, which also allows for input on how to improve technical systems
 - Shared consultations and referrals
 - Data management

VCU research enterprise and data services

- Pre-award, post-award, compliance, clinical
 - Data management, data sharing, open research
 - Keep in mind “As closed as it has to be, as open as it can be”
 - Rigor and reproducibility
 - Other roles and referrals as encountered