IASSIST 2012 - 38th Annual Conference
Washington, DC June 4-8, 2012
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We believe that the continuing advances in research require a commitment from the academic research universities to provide open access to their research results, including the data. Funding agencies like the NSF, NIH, NEH, and IMLS are now starting to require more extensive sharing of the results and data from funded research. Our question: how are the member institutions of the Association of Research Libraries responding to these new requirements?

This summary is an environmental scan of the current state of ARL member libraries and their institutions. We looked at several areas: research data policy; Open Access education, guidance and support, especially for faculty; scholarly communication guidance, education and support; data access and data management guidance, tools, and education; and consortium memberships. Our methodology: all data collected are from the institution, library and organization websites. For the purposes of this informal study, we made no attempt to verify information with further inquiry. We conducted no surveys or interviews, nor did we contact any of the libraries or institutions. Our goal was to acquire a snapshot of the current environment from a public perspective, and we may undertake a more thorough analysis of several of these areas in the future.

ARL libraries are active supporters of the Open Access movement. They work with faculty to educate them and to encourage them to adopt OA principles for their publishing and data sharing needs. Faculty support for OA appears to be the key to institutional adoption of an OA policy. The above statistics show how many of the 99 US ARL member institutions have faculty support for OA initiatives including data access, those with faculty discussing the issue, and the number of institutions that have signed the Berlin Declaration to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities in support of Open Access. ARL, ACRIL and ASERL are also signatories.

The chart below shows that many ARL libraries and institutions provide librarians, research guides, websites and web pages supporting open access, data access and data management issues and tools, and scholarly communication issues and tools. Many institutions provide more than one resource.

What did we learn from our research?

- ARL members are active in the OA movement by providing information, guidance, assistance and encouragement to faculty and their institutions, and to each other through their membership in consortia.
- Institutions appear to be gradually developing new and more comprehensive research data policies to meet addressing needs.
- Research data support within institutional repositories is highly varied, with few presently offering searchable data.

American academic libraries belong to many groups. ARL and ACRIL are two of the major national organizations. There are regional groups including ASERL and NERL, OA groups like OCA, SPARC and COAPI, discipline-specific organizations such as SCOPA3 and national groups like NDLTD, all of which enhance and extend the capabilities of their members. The above chart shows a sampling of some of these organizations and consortia, and the relative participation between consortia. Every US ARL member belongs to at least one, and many members belong to multiple groups.

Consortial Participation

ARL Libraries and Associated Libraries

 Consortia

Library/Institutional Assistance for Faculty

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<th>OA Libraries</th>
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Research Data Policies

- OA Libraries
- OA Websites/Sites
- Research Guides

Data Files in IRs

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Academic research institutions have many network, IT, internal data, research, data classification, copyright & intellectual property and research conduct policies. Many current policies appear to treat research data in an ad hoc fashion.

Robust research data policies are emerging and are important because they address the special requirements of research data: definitions, sharing, access, security, documentation, ownership, transferring, and retention.

SPARC: Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources

LDL: LOUISana Digital Library (1)

COPE: Compact for Open Access Publishing

Microsoft Excel File (1)

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Consortiums appear to have an important function because they foster collaboration, increase the diffusion of knowledge, encourage involvement, and strengthen the voice of the library profession. Many of these groups support OA initiatives.

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