RUresearch Data Team
Meeting Notes

Thursday, April 17, 2014

Present: Kalaivani Ananthan, Isaiah Beard, Laura Mullen, John Brennan, Bonnie Fong (Video), Karen Hartman, Ron Jantz, Triveni Kuchi, Yu-Hung Lin, Rhonda Marker, Aletia Morgan (Convener), Laura Palumbo, Janice Pilch, Ann Watkins, Yingting Zhang, Yini Zhu

1. **Overview of Rucore Development Plans & Schedule (Ron Jantz).** As a follow-up to the recently released RUcore version 7.3, Ron presented the current upgrade plans for the remainder of 2014. These include release 7.4, due for release in August, and 7.5, planned for release in November. The specific features scheduled for these releases, along with the history of RUcore releases is available for review at https://rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu/collab/releases.php.

2. **Moving Forward on Research Data Preservation (Janice Pilch).** Janice offered an update to the matter of clarifying policy and service specifications that would allow us to move forward on our mission to support the research data management efforts of the Rutgers research community. Janice reviewed some of the history, and her concerns regarding a lack of clarity regarding RUcore processes such as the type of data RUL will accept, evaluation and prioritization of data proposals, criteria for evaluation, and responsibility for answering questions and resolving issues concerning ownership/copyright/contract/commercialization status of data sets and other legal issues. Janice explained that RUL established a technological infrastructure and a data liaison network before establishing a clear process or structure for reviewing and evaluating data deposit proposals and that is why we are now discussing this third aspect that is crucial to the research data management effort. It will be similar to the Digital Projects Evaluation Process developed by Cabinet one year ago. Janice mentioned that a particular data project last year proved to be very difficult and was an indication that RUL procedures need to be developed before data can be accepted on a large scale.

   Janice has had several discussions with the office of the General Counsel and the IRB to discuss their positions on data deposit, in particular involving data that represents Rutgers IP assets. In addition to clarification of RUL/RUresearch service definition and setting up an infrastructure and workflow for deposit, the university must implement a University Policy on Research Data Ownership, as some other institutions have done. OCLC has issued very helpful guidelines for establishing university-wide policies on data

management. It will be important to establish consistency between the library policies and practices and those of other relevant university units.

There was some discussion regarding the nature of the RUresearch service. Several questions indicated a concern as to whether and when data deposit would move forward and whether the evaluation process would limit flexibility that has served the data research group well to date. Janice explained that what is being discussed is a workflow and basic criteria for providing data services that will clarify RUL's effort to the university community- as opposed to a system that operates on the basis of ad hoc decisions for every data proposal in an undefined framework.

Janice let us know that the next steps will be decided by Marianne Gaunt; she will either directly appoint a small task force to review and recommend policy and process for handling Research Data, or will involve Cabinet to determine the next steps. There was further discussion about whether the direction for the RUresearch Data Team can be set in a "top-down" fashion, or whether it at least needs to be "bi-directional", to provide two-way recognition of the concerns and aspirations of RUL librarians as we move forward. Janice clarified that this will not be a "top-down" approach but an effort that involves the work of data research team members in the same way that all other work to date has involved the group. At the same time, several librarians confirmed their eagerness to move forward, and are anxious for clarification and confirmation that this is an initiative that has the support and confidence of RUL leadership.

Unfortunately, Janice had to leave the meeting to accommodate another meeting but some discussion continued, regarding the library's unique position within the university to offer a core service to meet the funder requirements for data preservation and sharing. There is interest in finding a balance between offering defined services while still exploring new functionality that can accrue to the benefit of our diverse research community. Several comments noted that a willingness to try new things helped us identify issues that we would never have anticipated without those experiences, and which improved the RUresearch repository for all that might follow. We look forward to finding a process to clarify core services while expanding RUresearch capabilities to ensure we are meeting the needs of researchers.

3. **2014 Research Data Access & Preservation Summit (Aletia Morgan).** Aletia described her attendance at the recent 2014 RDAP summit, and highlighted her observations of commonalities across academic institutions striving to offer data services (we're generally still figuring it out as we go along), and a sample of the types of services being

offered, many of which are independent of any specific repository. A summary of the meeting, along with relevant links is available on Sakai at http://bit.ly/1nsv7zl.

4. **Office of Research & Economic Development (formerly OVPR) Newsletter (Yingting Zhang).** Yingting shared recent communications to ensure that the ORED staff is aware of the resources that the library can bring to campus research.   The ORED has recently begun publishing a semi-monthly newsletter that gives SHORT news items that might be of interest. To subscribe to the newsletter, email Ed Tate at this address: res-comm@rutgers.edu. See http://ored.rutgers.edu/node/17 to view all newsletters.

5. **Next Meetings, Summer Plans.** Unfortunately, we were running overtime, so this agenda item got short shrift. We will plan for the next RUresearch Data Team meeting to be held on Thursday, May 15, at 1:30 p.m.

Available RUresearch Team Meeting Notes and presentations are stored on Sakai at http://bit.ly/1qiOdfL.

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