Training Subject Librarians to Provide Data Services

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Overview

- Background
- Training goals
- Planning and development
- Implementation
- Results
- Challenges
- Tips
Background: MIT Libraries

- Five divisional libraries:
  - Management and social sciences
  - Architecture and urban planning
  - Engineering
  - Science
  - Humanities

- Role of subject specialists
- Role of Data Services Librarian
- Data initiatives across the Libraries: GIS, bioinformatics, chemoinformatics
Background: Data Services Plan

- Developed April, 2005
  - Reference
  - Instruction
  - Collection development and management
- Involve subject specialists in providing data services to their departments
- Data Services Librarian as facilitator
Training Goals: Reference

- Provide further reference service on social science data
- Make appropriate referrals to:
  - Data Services Librarian
  - GIS staff
  - Resources on campus for data analysis and statistical software
Training Goals: Instruction

- Provide more coverage of data in instruction presentations as appropriate
- Foster instruction collaboration
- Provide more coverage of data in web guides as appropriate
Training Goals: Collections

- Serve as liaison to faculty in their departments for collections projects:
  - Track data purchased across Institute and coordinate collection development
  - Identify data to load into repository, Harvard-MIT Data Center Virtual Data Center
  - Promote archiving of faculty-produced data
Planning

- Input and feedback from librarians and appropriate committees
- Levels of training: brief and in-depth
- Relationships among data in various disciplines
- Scheduling
Session Content

- Reference: overview of data research process, guidelines for referrals, hands-on exercises
- Instruction: Discussion of opportunities for collaborations
- Collections: Discussion of proposed programs
- Provided detailed handouts
Results

- 3 brief sessions
- 4 in-depth sessions
- 22 total attendees (70% of subject specialists)
- Sent materials to others
- Evaluation
Challenges

- Responsibility for data
- Data across the disciplines
- Levels of service
- Future plans
Tips

- Be clear on expectations
- Tiered training
- Publicity
- Apply models for data services to other disciplines
Questions?

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