Opening up the dialogue on research data: how librarians at La Trobe University are enabling the process.

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ABSTRACT

The Library at La Trobe University (LTU) has always played a major role in assisting researchers. This paper explores recent developments such as changing national and institutional policies, and provides an overview of the approach the Library is taking, by creating new research support initiatives. A Research Data Management Group was formed in 2013, consisting of staff from Digital Infrastructure (DI) and Learning & Research Services (L&RS). The group was charged with the task of contacting researchers about research data, advising them on the administration of data, and proposing the University Repository, *Research Online* as a place to manage their data. La Trobe received funding from the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) for a University Metadata stores project (Australian National Data Service (ANDS), 2013). Through this funding the Library has acquired extra capacity to support and collect research data. This paper reports on how L&RS staff immersed themselves in the world of data management, and how this new service has enabled dialogue between researchers and the Library. This service fulfills a previously unrecognised need, staffed by specialists, who can competently provide research data support, whilst understanding the needs of our researchers. This paper will also address the changing roles of academic librarians, and how data management has a key role in the support of researchers through the research life cycle.

References

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About the Authors

Simon Huggard joined La Trobe University in June 2012 and has previously worked at the State Library of Victoria and Monash University. He manages a team of staff responsible for the Library's Research Online Repository, search, linking and discovery systems, library management system, image repository, and copyright and audio-visual requests.

Simon has written many articles and presentations relating to Library systems and information access and is a strong advocate for open access and the provision of smart systems for accessing digital library content.

Kerry Sullivan joined La Trobe from Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences, in 1991. Kerry was Head of Cataloguing, and received ABN review status for Lincoln which she is still proud of. Kerry has worked as a Faculty Librarian for Education, and brings considerable liaison experience to support her new role as a Data Management Librarian. She also worked previously in London, at St. Stephen's Medical Library, Chelsea.

Mina Nichols-Boyd has worked at La Trobe University since November 2009, initially as a Library Officer with Collection, Delivery & Facilities (CD&F) and more recently with Learning & Research Services (L&RS) in a support role. Mina has recently completed a secondment with Digital Infrastructure. Prior to working at La Trobe, Mina worked at the State Library of Victoria (SLV). Mina is currently undertaking a Master of Information Studies through Charles Sturt University.