

Assessment of health sciences and science and technology librarian e-science educational needs to develop an e-science web portal for librarians

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APPENDIX

E-science portal assessment for librarians

1. E-science defined

Dear Colleagues:

The Lamar Soutter Library at the UMass Medical School has been funded to develop an e-science web portal. This web portal will integrate e-science resources, instructional tools, and collaborative networking tools for librarians. As part of our development of this portal, we need your input and cooperation in filling out an online assessment tool that will help us align the portal with your needs as librarians.

The Association of Research Libraries e-science task force report stated that e-science requires new librarian strategies for research support and significant development of library infrastructure [1]. E-science can be defined in many ways, but as Tony and Jessie Hey pointed out, "e-Science is not a new scientific discipline in its own right: e-Science is shorthand for the set of tools and technologies required to support collaborative, networked science" [2]. In Neil Rambo's recent editorial, "E-science and the Biomedical Library," he describes e-science as "a new research methodology, fueled by networked capabilities and the practical possibility of gathering and storing vast amounts of data" [3].

Thus, the e-science role for librarians is characterized by its promise of interdisciplinary research collaboration and the collection, organization, and management of data.

The benefits of this portal for librarians include, but are not limited to, a centralized location for content education, e-science related tools, and the exchange of information and ideas. We encourage your participation in this assessment as your feedback is vital to the selection of comprehensive resources for the portal.

References

1. Association of Research Libraries, Joint Task Force on Library Support for E-Science. Agenda for developing e-science in research libraries [final report] [Internet]. Washington, DC: The Association; 2007 [cited 15 Jan 2010]. <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/ARL_EScience_final.pdf>.
2. Hey T, Hey J. E-science and its implications for the library community. *Libr Hi Tech*. 2006;24(4):515–28.

3.Rambo N. E-science and biomedical libraries [editorial]. J Med Libr Assoc. 2009 Jul;97(3):159–61. DOI: 10.3163/1536-5050.97.3.001.

2. Librarians' science background

1. I am a librarian at:

- An academic institution
- A hospital
- A biomedical research institution
- An industry/commercial or private research institution
- Other (please specify): _____

2. In addition to my master's of library science (MLS), I have a:

- PhD or other doctoral degree in _____
- Master of arts/science degree in _____
- Bachelor of arts/science degree in _____
- Associate of arts/science degree in _____
- Independent coursework or professional development in _____

3. Your users

In this section, we are hoping to identify the support and resources offered to users in the science disciplines.

3. I serve researchers in the following scientific disciplines: _____

4. "E-science describes the collaboration among computationally intensive science disciplines that create immense data sets" that are "captured, transported, stored, organized, accessed, mined, visualized, and interpreted in order to extract knowledge. ... The e-science role for librarians is characterized by interdisciplinary research collaboration and the collection, organization, and management of these data."

According to currently established definitions, do you provide e-science-related library services?

- No
- Don't know
- Yes (please specify) _____

5. Does your library currently manage or maintain any e-science related datasets?

- No
- Don't know
- Yes (please specify) _____

6. Does your library provide online e-science-related tutorials for your research community?

- No
- Don't know
- Yes (please specify) _____

7. Are there other potential opportunities for e-science information services collaboration in your institution?

- No
- Don't know

Yes (please specify) _____

4. Developing a useful portal

In this section, we would like to know the types of resources and tools that would be most useful in developing e-science services

8. I am most likely to use the following features in learning about e-science practices and tools (please check all that apply):

- Collaborative learning
- To collaborate with librarian colleagues from other institutions
- To find continuing education opportunities
- To tutorials for specific tools
- To find tutorials to develop content/background knowledge
- Other (please specify) _____

9. To support e-science initiatives in your institution, what educational materials or opportunities are needed (please check all that apply)?

- Online tutorials for specific e-science-related tools
- Online tutorials for specific e-science-related background/content knowledge
- Continuing education
- Support from the library community
- Other (please specify) _____

10. I learn best by:

- Structured classroom instruction
- One-on-one instruction
- Informal small group learning
- Self-guided
- Other (please specify) _____

11. What kind of online collaborative tools are you most comfortable using (please check all that apply)?

- Web blog (blog)
- Wiki
- Email discussion list
- Social networking applications (profiles of librarians to be used in finding e-science collaborators, fellow learners, and mentors)
- Other (please specify) _____

12. Which science disciplines or areas are your strengths? _____

13. In sharing your strengths, what kind of assistance are you willing to offer other librarians?

- Presenting an informal lecture
- Answering a quick question
- Developing pathfinders or research guides
- Providing mentorship in a discipline or specific retrieval tools
- Other (please specify) _____

14. Which science-based disciplines or areas would you like to learn more about?

15. In the above areas you mentioned, what would you find helpful to improve or increase your knowledge? (e.g., find tutorials, ask a colleague for assistance)

16. What websites and/or e-science learner resources would you recommend be included in the portal? _____

17. Are you interested in attending any e-science-related continuing education courses?

No

Don't know

Yes (please specify) _____

5. Thank You!

18. Thank you for your participation. If you would like to remove your email from this list to avoid receiving subsequent reminders to fill out this survey, please type your email address below. Please know that responses will be randomized and not attached to this email address.
