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Birds, Groundhogs, and Squirrels

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Journal of eScience Librarianship
putting the pieces together: theory and practice

Editorial

Birds, Groundhogs, and Squirrels

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Focus

It takes a strong data science community and many stakeholders to make disparate types of data work so that you and I can continue to explore and learn. Being proactive by including diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) policies and practices, along with evaluating liaison/ outreach roles and established programs and tools, will go a long way in strengthening the library, its staff and services, and the institution. Fighting for the "food" you need to grow the profession and data services is key to the future of the RDM library community.

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I am privileged to work from home two days per week, and lucky to have a "room of one's own" to use when I am off-site. This room, a library, has a 10-foot-wide picture window overlooking our south-facing front woods and has been an important part of my life for 37 years. Fast-forward to 2020 and the pandemic, this room became a sanctuary for me and my husband, and where there had been one bird feeder, there are now eight of varying types and feeding specialties. Those who follow me on Facebook or Twitter may read my posts about the animals that live in our woods, and I have taken to watching them whenever I work from home, journaling the species and gender (although I have no idea as to the gender of the groundhog pair) of what I see that day or whichever day moves me to do this type of data gathering. My colleagues suggest that I become a citizen scientist and participate in the various annual bird counts—I consider it, and then decide not at this time. But what does excite me to thinking about all things data is the site from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the related apps Merlin Bird ID (including sound), eBird Explore, Macauley Library (wild-life media library), and of course their All About Birds online guide to birds and birdwatching. (I would be remiss if I didn't do a shoutout to a favorite identification app iNaturalist). Whereas I'm charmed with the birds and groundhogs in our yard, I have a love-hate relationship with the squirrels. I admire their ingenuity, flexibility, and food-gathering skills; I also dislike their gluttony, aggression, and omnivorous tastes…they're a strong community and every day they flaunt these attributes. But the front yard all seems to work, these animals' workflows and procedures are flawless.

It takes a strong data science community and many stakeholders to make disparate types of data work so that you and I can continue to explore and learn. In this issue of the *Journal of eScience Librarianship*, the authors write about how data is gathered, applied, and distributed; data carpentries; inclusion, accessibility, diversity, and equity; library science education; library liaisons and the scientific community; and repositories—a little something for everyone.

Library school and iSchool curricula are at a crossroads—what percentage of traditional courses should be taught (reference, management, bibliography, cataloging, etc.) vs. specific areas of knowledge, such as Health-Related Informatics (HRI). Griffin, Raszewski, and Beverley's research shows there are interesting partnerships for iSchools and Library and Information Science programs that will provide necessary health-science related educational opportunities for students and health sciences librarians. Thielen and Marsolek's article, "Taking a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Lens to Engineering Librarian Job Postings," looks at engineering librarian job postings, analyzing these for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) principles and practices. The authors provide actionable recommendations on how to incorporate DEIA principles into any academic librarian job postings.

Data services librarians, science librarians and liaison librarians have much work to do when bringing together disparate campus and librarian departments. It's not always easy, and training is often used to help librarians learn successful outreach

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strategies. "Bringing All the Stakeholders to the Table: A Collaborative Approach to Data Sharing" by O'Donnell and Brundy uses a unique data set to review related workflows and documents, working with the institution's different stakeholders to realize the importance of collaborative approaches to research data services. Bishop, Orehek, Eaker, and Smith examine the current roles and perspectives on Research Data Management (RDM) services in higher education using job analysis interviews, providing a matrix of job tasks and responsibilities to help inform future research in this area and job descriptions. "Translating Liaison Librarians to the Scientific Community" uses the Five Whys Technique to delve into why scientists are unaware of the skills and services of liaison librarians, providing four recommendations for librarians and libraries to enhance the value of liaison services.

"Depositing Data: A Usability Study of the Texas Data Repository" examines the usability of the Texas Data Repository (TDR) using a mixed-methods research study. The research shows that users were sometimes confused about the differences between the Harvard Dataverse collection and dataset, along with having difficulties adding/editing metadata in their datasets—the leap between data depositing and data curation isn't always a smooth path. From the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands (TU Delft) is a review of its Software Carpentries program that was migrated to an online format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Plomp, Tsang, and Lavanchy relate the challenges and opportunities with moving an established program online and discuss how these insights will inform them for future in-person programs.

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