

May 2004

Feeling Around in the Dark: Defining the Library's Role in a Campus-Wide Digitization Project

Mary E. Piorun
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Et al.

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Piorun ME, Comes JF. (2004). Feeling Around in the Dark: Defining the Library's Role in a Campus-Wide Digitization Project. Library Posters and Presentations. Retrieved from https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/lib_postpres/3

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Feeling Around in the Dark

Establishing the Role of the Library in a
Campus Wide Digitization Project



Lamar Soutter Library
University of Massachusetts Medical School
Mary Piorun & James Comes

Project Background

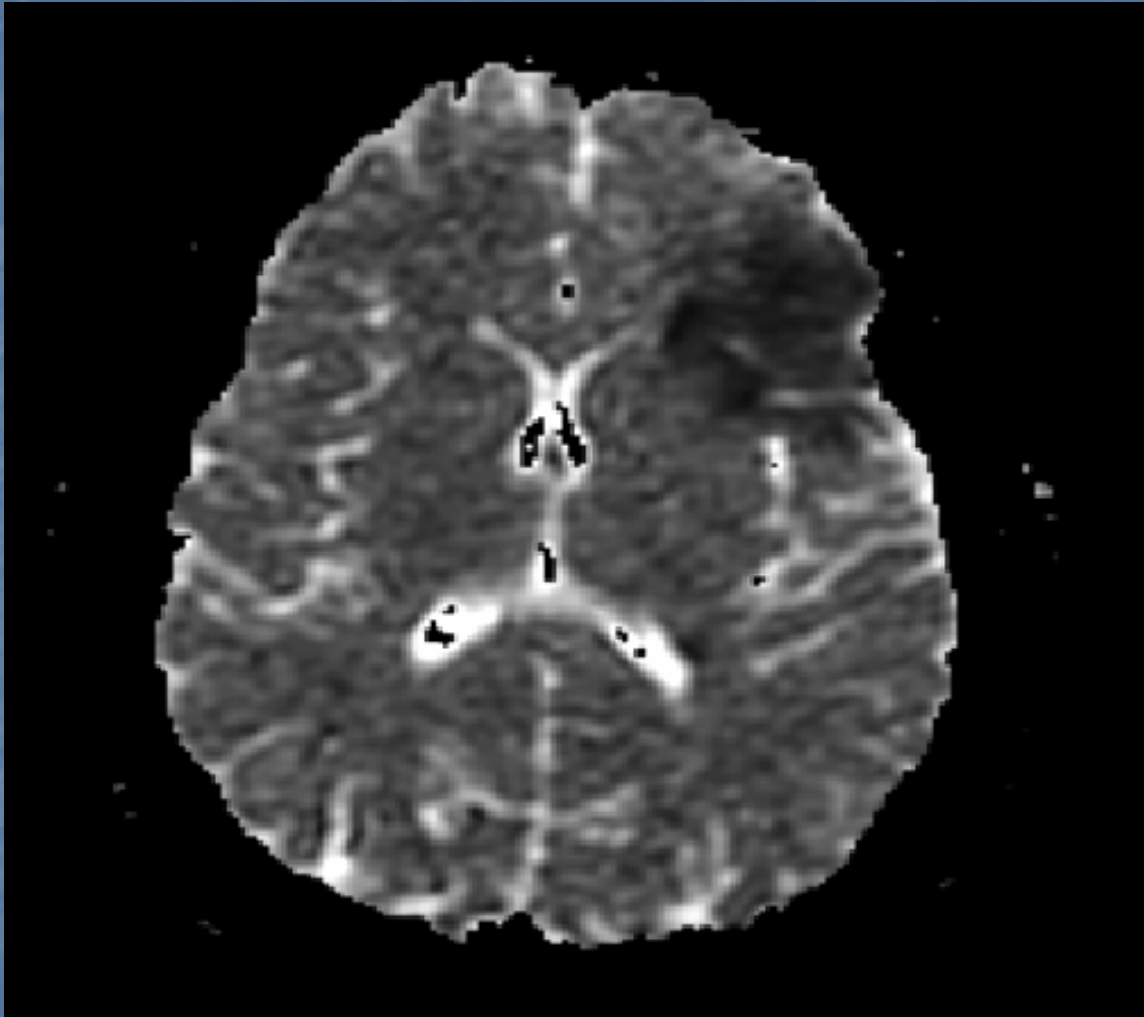
- Faculty members go to IS for help managing images used for teaching
 - IS doesn't have the resources or time
 - The Library has knowledge and staff expertise
-
- **TIP #1: Seek out opportunities to showcase your skills**

Faculty Readiness

- Curious - want to get involved
- Leaders – have private collections to share



Right Sided Weakness



Source: University of Massachusetts Medical School
Department of Neurology
Maria Dayaw

Faculty Readiness

- Status quo



- **TIP #2: Start with faculty who are the most receptive to change**

Waiting & Planning

- Step 1: Forming goals
 - Fuzzy or implied
 - Build a database of faculty created images for use by faculty in teaching
- Step 2: Obtain funding
 - Shared costs
 - IS: software & installation
 - Library: training
 - What's missing? hardware and maintenance
 - **TIP #3: You may be required to Act before you Think**

Ready – Set – Go

- The Library is formally charged with forming and leading a campus wide team to implement a digital image database.
 - Library staff
 - Information Services
 - Academic Computing
 - Instructional Technology
 - School and clinical faculty
- **TIP #4: Include representation from a broad range of departments**



Project Goals vs. Departmental Goals

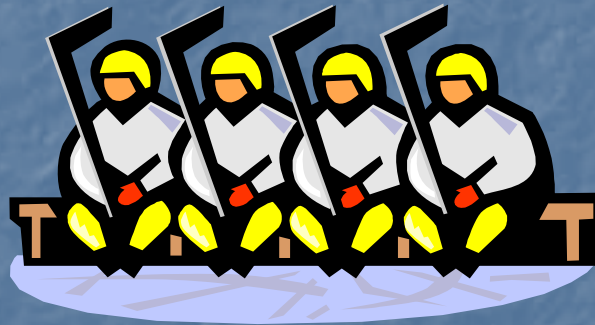
- **Library:**

- Add value by offering expertise in organization, indexing and cataloging
- Develop new relationships with school and clinical departments to improve patient care
- Promote the Library and its staff

- **TIP #5: Know all the goals of all team members**

Benefits of the Team

- Regular schedule of meetings
- Set milestones and deadlines
- Form comprehensive cross departmental policies
- Establish workflows and responsibilities



- **TIP #6: Working together leads to buy-in**

Role of the Library

- Promote and advertise the project
- Train faculty
- Quality control
- MeSH headings
- Add new fields to the database if needed



- **TIP #7: Know your limit – Stay within it**

Biggest Hurdles

- Staying focused and not getting overwhelmed
- Communicating
 - Library culture vs. Information Services culture
 - Defining roles from a customer service point of view
- Faculty: time & trust



- **TIP #8: Work within your institution's culture to find creative solutions**

Progress

- Eight faculty members trained
 - Over 100 images
 - New server on the way
 - Key decisions behind us
 - Follow-up with trained faculty
-
- **TIP #9: Acknowledge your accomplishments**

Final Tip

- Jump in head first



Questions?

Contact Information

James.Comes@umassmed.edu

Mary.Piorun@umassmed.edu

University of Massachusetts Medical School

<http://library.umassmed.edu>