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Collaborating to Improve Collaboration: Informationist Team Support for an Interdisciplinary Research Group

Margaret E. Henderson
Virginia Commonwealth University

Julie Arendt
Virginia Commonwealth University

John W. W. Cyrus
Virginia Commonwealth University

Karen H. Gau
Virginia Commonwealth University

Martha Roseberry

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Collaborating to Improve Collaboration: Informationist Team Support for an Interdisciplinary Research Group.

Margaret Henderson, Research Data Management, VCU Libraries; Julie Arendt and Martha Roseberry, Academic Outreach, James Branch Cabell Library; John Cyrus and Karen Gau, Research and Education, Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences

Informationist Team

Liaisons:
School of Medicine,
Biomedical Engineering,
Mathematics
Research Data Management

Research Team

2 PIs
Mathematics
Biomedical Engineering
Collaborators
School of Medicine
Off-campus faculty
Graduate and Undergraduate Students

The Informationist Team hopes to show that this model, utilizing the skills of multiple librarians, is a viable way to support the increasing number of interdisciplinary and interprofessional research groups at the university who need help from embedded librarians. By working as a group, the Informationist Team is able to help in many new roles.

So far:

- **Literature searching:** extended searching to multiple subject databases, strengthened PubMed searching, especially in areas of imaging and mathematical modeling
- **Citation management:** help with *Zotero*
- **General library help:** finding protocols, books, articles, etc.
- **Data management:** interviewed team members, developed basic metadata form for research folders, working to add form to all folders
- **Attend lab meetings** to receive and answer questions as they come up.
- **Presented on data visualization** for Journal Club.

Survey Results

After 1 Year (n=7)

- 5 of 7 had worked with Informationists, found what they needed, and saved time.
- “Having someone who knows database searching helped save me time.”
- “Found Sources I may not have otherwise.”

Changes from Pre-Survey (n=3)

- Moved from school server to cloud for storage of data, documents, etc.
- Recognized data management as important to work.

Traditional Roles

- 1 Help with literature search.
- 2 Help find journals for submission.
- 3 Help format bibliography.

Additional Informationist Roles

- 4 Help with Data Management Plan and funder compliance.
- 5 Help set up and teach group citation management tool.
- 6 Teach students, staff, etc. about research data management.
- 7 Help set up and maintain research data organization.
- 8 Help with data analysis and visualization.
- 9 Find data repositories.
- 10 Make sure sharing is tied to ORCID and keep track of altmetrics.
- 11 Find data for reuse.

