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Apr 6th, 12:00 AM

## Bridging the Gap: Improving Data Services through Cross-Campus Collaboration

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### Repository Citation

Steeves, V., Gordon, A. S., & Read, K. B. (2016). Bridging the Gap: Improving Data Services through Cross-Campus Collaboration. *University of Massachusetts and New England Area Librarian e-Science Symposium*. <https://doi.org/10.13028/q9n7-yn41>. Retrieved from [https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/escience\\_symposium/2016/posters/2](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/escience_symposium/2016/posters/2)

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# Bridging the Gap

## Improving Data Services through Cross-Campus Collaboration

Vicky Steeves<sup>1</sup>, Andrew S. Gordon<sup>2</sup>, Kevin B. Read<sup>3</sup>



### OBJECTIVE

New York University (NYU) Libraries provide research data services to diverse communities across several campuses. These services have largely worked independent of each other:

- **NYU Data Services** is a department within the NYU Libraries system and offers workshops, individual and group consultations, and traveling “road shows” on data management to the larger NYU community.
- **NYU Health Sciences Library (NYUHSL)** is a department located separately within an academic medical center, and supports a data catalog, data management education, and individualized lab support.
- **Databrary** which is connected to NYU's Digital Library Technology Services, provides a repository for behavioral and learning science researchers working primarily with video data to store, manage, and share the raw materials of their work with their colleagues.

These disparate services have since collaborated by identifying overlap, making connections between service offerings, and sharing knowledge and resources around data.

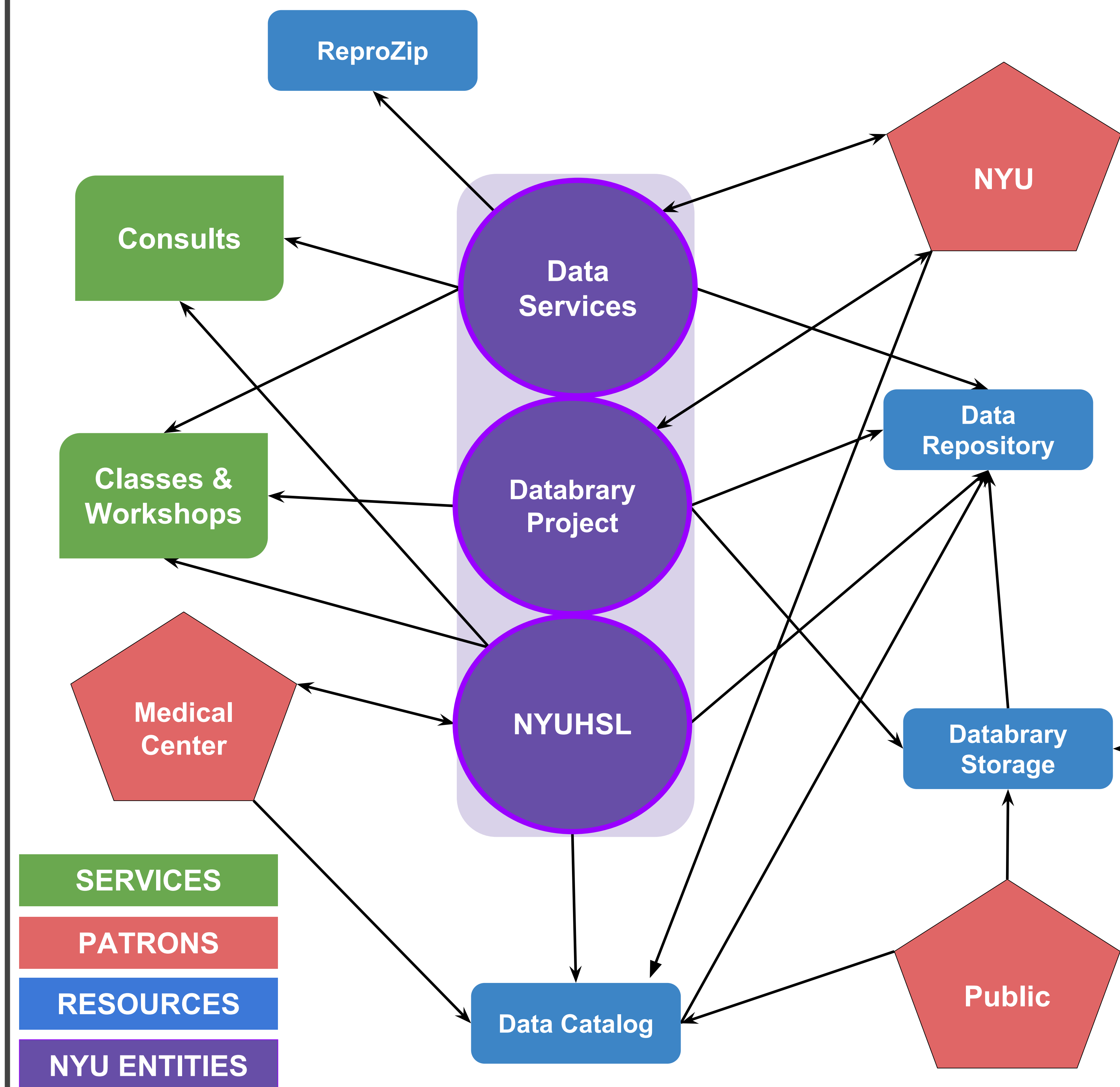
### METHODS

To better coordinate of these data services, we held meetings to discuss strategies for:

- improving data education material,
  - integrating an institutional data catalog created by NYUHSL with main campus systems
  - providing data-related outreach to institutional stakeholders.
- These groups have also collaborated on planning and hosting events on data-related topics including using Databrary, reproducibility in science, and data visualization.

A resource sharing system was instituted across campuses for library faculty to collaborate and improve upon the instructional design of data management education, create outreach materials, and share ongoing project documentation.

### DATA SERVICES CONNECTIONS



#### CONNECTIONS IN PRACTICE

Referrals	Education	Service Sharing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patrons               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Education</li> <li>○ Consultations</li> <li>○ Resources:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Databrary</li> <li>■ Data Catalog</li> <li>■ ReproZip</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Visualization</li> <li>• Scripting/Programming</li> <li>• Data Management</li> <li>• Grant Compliance</li> <li>• Reproducibility</li> <li>• Reuse/Data Sharing</li> <li>• Preservation/Security</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational material               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Class curriculum</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Career Development Opportunities</li> <li>• News/Updates</li> <li>• Service Development</li> <li>• Tools &amp; Infrastructure</li> </ul>

### RESULTS

The new collaboration between NYU Data Services, NYUHSL, and special projects like Databrary has served to break down existing institutional silos to provide better research and educational data services to NYU's student and research communities.

This collaboration has been essential for improving upon existing services, identifying new opportunities to support the data needs of institutional stakeholders, and providing increased levels of outreach.

By fostering a better understanding of what data services are available across campuses through this ongoing collaboration, we are better able to identify and support our communities' data needs.

### CONCLUSION

Providing data management, curation, and storage services for a diverse and dynamic research community on campus is a demanding task that requires a distributed effort. Each service fills different gaps for researchers at varying stages of their research practices, though without inter-department communication there was decidedly less impact and reach by everyone.

By collaborating and opening a line of communication, we have built a better understanding of how we can interact to provide stronger support to the student and research communities across campuses.

### AUTHOR AFFILIATIONS

