Research Assessment Services in Academic Health Sciences Libraries

Yingting Zhang, MLS, AHIP
Research Services Librarian
RWJ Library of the Health Sciences
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

2018 MLA NYNJ Chapter Meeting
October 24, 2018, New York, NY
OUTLINE

- Objectives
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusion
OBJECTIVES

- This study aims to investigate if, what, and how research assessment services are provided by academic health sciences libraries.
- The findings will help librarians develop effective research assessment services to meet researchers’ needs.
METHODS

- A list of academic health sciences libraries (N=150) was downloaded from AAHSL Membership Directory on January 10, 2018.
- Data were extracted from their websites aiming to answer these questions:
  - Are research assessment services being provided?
  - If yes, what levels of assessment services are provided?
  - How are the research assessment services provided?
  - What other research support services are provided?
- When a website did not post enough or clear information, contacting listed point persons was pursued to acquire additional information and clarification about the service.
- Data collected were recorded in an excel file and analyzed accordingly.
RESULTS

- 60 out of 150 libraries (40%) provided research assessment services at various levels.
  - Among the 60 academic health sciences libraries,
    - 21 (35%) libraries provided basic level services with a brief guide on research metrics;
    - 22 (37%) offered intermediate level with trainings or detailed research guides to measure research impact;
    - 17 (28%) provided formal services by designated professionals or via special programs;
- 18 (12%) have access to research assessment services provided by non-health sciences libraries in their academic libraries systems.
- 67 libraries (45%) did not have such services;
- 5 (3%) were excluded due to various reasons.

The study also revealed other types of research services offered in the studied libraries.
Number of Libraries Providing Research Assessment Services
N=150

- Yes (HSL): 18 (12%)
- No: 60 (40%)
- By non-HSL: 67 (45%)
- NA: 5 (3%)

Research Assessment Services in Academic Health Sciences Libraries
RWJ Library of the Health Sciences - https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/RWJ
## Level of Research Assessment Services

N=60

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1, Basic</td>
<td>Provided basic and brief information on research metrics resources and tools.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2, Intermediate</td>
<td>Provided research guides with detailed information and contacts for assistance if help is needed.</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3, Advanced</td>
<td>Provided dedicated and advanced services on research evaluation by designated professionals.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Types of Research Support Services

- Grant Writing and Funding: 52, 35%
- Systematic Review Services: 59, 39%
- Research Data Services: 60, 40%
- NIP Public Access Policy Compliance: 75, 50%
- Copyright, Fair Use, Author Rights: 82, 55%
- Writing Guide and Scholarly Publishing: 105, 70%
- Citation Management: 123, 82%
CONCLUSION

- Almost half of the academic health sciences libraries provided services on research assessment in addition to many other types of research support services.
- Most of them, however, provided research assessment services at a very limited level; only a small number of libraries offered very formal bibliometric services to their users.
- It would be beneficial for these providers to share what lessons they learned and what programs proved to be effective.
- A subsequent study might be needed to survey these libraries and service providers to make recommendations on best practices.
THANK YOU!

Questions? Please contact:
Yingting Zhang
yzhang@rutgers.edu