Title

Institutional Dimensions of Data Curation:Astronomy, Research Libraries, and MultipleApproaches to Curation

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Authors

Thompson, Cheryl
Darch, Peter T.
Sands, Ashley E.
et al.

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Institutional Dimensions of Data Curation: Astronomy, Research Libraries, and Multiple Approaches to Curation

Cheryl Thompson

Peter T. Darch

Ashley E. Sands

Christine L. Borgman

Sharon Traweek

Milena S. Golshan

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1988: Planning and Design begins

1995: Construction begins

1998: Commissioning begins

2000: SDSS-I Operations begins

2005: SDSS-II begins

2008: SDSS-II ends

What happens to the data?

SDSS Data Transfer Process

- SDSS stakeholders partnered with two university libraries
    - Negotiation phase (2006-2008)
    - Implementation phase (2008-2013)
- SDSS stakeholders' goal was a dataset available:
    - Over the long-term
    - To astronomers
    - To produce new science and to reproduce existing science

SDSS Data Transfer Process

- The two libraries diverged in terms of:
  - The materials they curated
  - The services they implemented to support access and use
  - **The reuse possibilities afforded by their activities**

	Blue University Library	Red University Library
Data archive server (DAS)	X	X
Catalog archive server (CAS)	X	X
Administrative archive	X	-
Help desk	X	-
Raw data	-	X
Software	-	X

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SDSS Data Transfer Process

- Institutional factors account for divergence

	Blue University Library	Red University Library
Data archive server (DAS)	X	X ←
Catalog archive server (CAS)	X	X
Administrative archive	X ←	-
Help desk	X	-
Raw data	-	X
Software	-	X

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Blue University: Administrative Archive

- Traditional university library
  - Concerned with visibility at university
  - Special Collections Unit
  - Service orientation

- Library suggested inclusion of Administrative Archive

Blue University: Administrative Archive

- **Strategic objectives**
  - Articulate a new purpose for existing infrastructure
- **Mission, values, and internal culture**
  - Help users understand data
  - Archive university records and preserve faculty papers
- **Organizational structure**
  - Fit into existing, rigid structure
- **Infrastructure and capacity**
  - Leverage extant Special Collections Unit infrastructure
  - Leverage extant history of science expertise

Red University: Data Archive Server

- Transfer handled by autonomous unit in Red University library
  - *Institute for Innovation in Digital Curation (IIDC)*, pseudonym
  - Largely dependent on soft money
    - Research & development orientation
    - *Guardianship of Data* (*GD*) project
  - Agile culture of software development

- Data Archive Server (DAS)
  - Included at suggestion of IIDC during negotiation phase
  - Prioritized by IIDC during implementation phase

Red University:
Data Archive Server (DAS)

- **Strategic objectives**

  - Reinforce work of GD project

- **Mission, values, and internal culture**

  - Boost research and development mission of the IIDC

- **Organizational structure**

  - Could be prioritized at discretion of the team (Agile structure)

- **Infrastructure and capacity**

  - Leverage staff expertise and GD infrastructure for an "easy win"

Conclusions

- Institutional factors intersected to produce outcomes
  - Strategic objectives
  - Mission, values, and internal culture
  - Organizational structure
  - Infrastructure and capacity
- Variations in factors produced variations in terms of:
  - The scholarly purposes for which the data could be used
  - The scholarly communities who found the dataset useful
- The university libraries:
  - Proved a partial solution to long-term curation
  - Opened up unexpected opportunities

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