A View from Campus: The E-Institute Post-Capstone

ARL 160th Membership Meeting, Chicago, May 2, 2012

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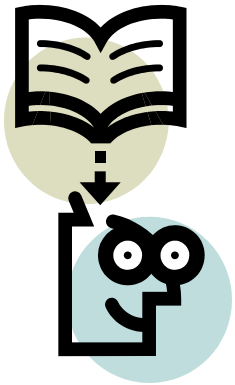
E-Science Institute Curriculum

1. Baseline Module (weeks 1-6)
2. Context Module (weeks 7-12)
3. Building Blocks Module: first draft strategic agenda (weeks 13-18)
4. Capstone Event (weeks 19-24)
5. Deliverables



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The process at UIC

- Environmental scan July – Dec 2011
  - Library faculty and academic staff members
  - Key informant interviews on campus
  - Focus group interview with the UIC IT Governance Council Research Subcommittee
- SWOT analysis early January 2012
- Three-day capstone event

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What did we learn through the first few modules?

- How sophisticated some units on campus were in dealing with data management
- Externally, there's a lot of data out there needing stewardship, suggesting new positive roles for the library outside the traditional walls of the library
- Internally, must rethink the traditional role of the library to best serve our users
- You needed the "homework assignment" to make you get outside the library, talk with colleagues with whom you would not otherwise have spoken...but
  - Needed more time to go through each of the stages with more time to talk to more people
  - Needed better "guiding questions" for the interviews

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What was the impact?

- Strategic agenda recommends actions the UIC Library can take in partnership with other campus units to improve support for e-research at UIC
- Library chairs UIC IT Governance Research Subcommittee Data Management/Curation Work Group
- Preparing internally to support campus conversations on important collaboration tools
  - Research data repository
  - Researcher profiles
- Preparing for educational / archival role in
  - Stewardship of the scholarly record
  - Best practices in digital research information management

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The benefit of the deliverable…

- Created a strategic vision for the library to move forward to support campus research in a way in which it would not otherwise have been involved.
  - Externalization of library services…increase the use of an embedded model, bringing experience in handling collections and archives to bear on the world of research data management
  - Requires internal rethinking of traditional library culture
- Framework supported comprehensive thinking, brought important tools for strategic planning, introduced the world of strategic planning for campus-wide library services

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Final thoughts

- By seeking support from faculty colleagues
  - Truncated the time to educate the entire campus
  - Gave faster credibility to the activity
  - Increased visibility for the venue
  - Enhanced campus relationships—existing and future

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