

How are researchers documenting their day to day activities?

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Project Team

- Informatics Interest Group
- Members:
 - Marci Brandenburg, chair
 - Leena Lalwani
 - Mark MacEachern
 - Scott Martin
 - Merle Rosenzweig
 - Yulia Sevryugina

Informatics Interest Group

- Charge
 - Identify and capitalize on opportunities to collaborate with **researchers** in interdisciplinary informatics domains
 - Investigate, develop, acquire, implement, and promote cutting edge and **non-traditional** knowledge, skills, **technologies**, and tools for partnering with individual **researchers** as well as **labs**, centers, and institutes
 - Promote and raise the profile of the university library by value added contributions to grants, planning, projects, and goals of partner **researchers**

Project Background

- Evaluate non-traditional resources
- University license of an electronic lab notebook
- We wanted to get a sense of how researchers were documenting their work

Project Details

- Purpose:
 - How researchers document their research
 - Pilot
 - Provide IIG with research experience
- IRB: HUM00147763

Methods

- Methods:
 - Survey
 - To gather information about lab notebook use at U-Michigan
 - Population: Labs in engineering, health sciences, sciences
 - Created in Qualtrics
 - Distributed via email (through liaisons/informationists)

Methods

- Methods:
 - Follow-up Interviews
 - Targeted one unit (Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology)
 - Recruitment emails sent by department liaison
 - In phases, including follow-up, starting in July 2018
 - Two interviewers present at all interviews
 - Interviews recorded (with participant consent)

Methods

- Methods:
 - Coding
 - Obtained funding to transcribe interviews (Scribie and Rev)
 - Two team members coded interviews independently, resolved disagreements
 - Sample types of codes:
 - Print and electronic notebook usage
 - Benefits and limitations
 - Backup
 - Retention
 - Sharing

Results

- Survey (n=77)
 - Questions
 - Paper, electronic, or both
 - Archival practices
 - Electronic platform (if relevant)
 - Willingness to participate in follow-up

Results

- Interviews (n=6)
 - Questions
 - Does lab primarily use print or electronic notebooks for recordkeeping
 - Do conditions in lab or nature of work influence choice of notebook
 - Pros and cons of print and electronic
 - Backup (frequency, process, views)
 - Notebook recording standards or policies
 - Do lab members share contents of notebooks
 - Awareness of institutional notebook

Results

- All used paper; two used both
- Paper
 - Ability to enter information at bench
 - Ability to easily carry it around
 - Not easy to share with others

Results

- Electronic
 - Backed up regularly
 - Easier to share
 - Not convenient to have at the ready
- Commercial products
 - Concerns that company may go defunct or data would be lost
 - Concerns that product may not be tailored to their needs

Presentations

- SLA poster, MLA lightning talk, and Midwest MLA presentation
- Hosted internal lightning round event for other librarians involved in research

Thank you

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