Managing the Data Deluge: Understanding Scientists' Need for Data Curation Services

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Data curation is defined as "...the active and on-going management of data through its lifecycle of interest and usefulness to scholarship, science, and education...activities [that] enable data discovery and retrieval, maintain its quality, add value, and provide for re-use over time, and this new field includes authentication, archiving, management, preservation, retrieval, and representation."[1]

While library research on data curation is active and ongoing in the humanities and social sciences, the research regarding data curation within the sciences is in its infancy. The lack of knowledge about data creation, management, and reuse has a direct impact on librarianship, library services, and library users, as libraries are now being asked to provide services to archive data created at their universities. What are the data curation needs on campus, and what services are libraries and librarians willing and able to provide to meet these needs?

Information gathered from a survey distributed to Cal Poly State University San Luis Obispo science and mathematics faculty will help provide insight into the awareness of science researchers about data curation issues and their needs for data curation services and education regarding maintenance and management of data.

[1] Data Curation. Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. 16 Mar. 2010. <http://www.lis.illinois.edu/academics/programs/ms/datacuration>