DataQ: A Collaborative Platform for Answering Research Data Questions in Libraries

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The DataQ project is an IMLS-funded effort by the University of Colorado Boulder staff members who are subject discipline specialists. “When libraries provide research data services related to reference, consultation, or instruction, those services are most likely to be offered by individual librarians or library staff members who are subject discipline specialists.”

How can we provide support for these individuals?

Creating a tool and community as part of the solution

The DataQ project is an IMLS-funded effort by the University of Colorado Boulder Libraries, the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA), and the Great Plains Network (GPN) to develop an online knowledge-base of research data questions and answers curated for and by the library community. The website and project are intended to address the growing need for resources to assist libraries with providing support for the research data needs of faculty and students.

The model for the DataQ site

Librarians → Research Data Questions → Editors

Community Comments (post-pub review) → Best Practice Answers → Peer-Review

The Need

“When libraries provide research data services related to reference, consultation, or instruction, those services are most likely to be offered by individual librarians or library staff members who are subject discipline specialists.”

Impact

Website engagement data from first month after launch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Questions Answered</td>
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<td>Registered Users</td>
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Google Analytics data from first month after launch

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<td>Users</td>
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<td>Sessions</td>
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<td>Page Views</td>
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Twitter Analytics data as of 9/15/15

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<td>Followers</td>
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<td>Profile Visits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tweet Impressions</td>
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What DataQ means for you

The DataQ project team has developed an online platform for information professionals to use to:

- Ask questions about data management and curation
- Share ideas and approaches to answering these questions
- Identify practical tools and resources for helping researchers
- Connect with a supportive community of librarians and data experts

Questions by the community to the DataQ site

- What exactly is metadata? Is there something I need to know beyond tagging?
- Are there sample data management plans I can look at? Or a template I can use?
- What is research data?

The future + DataQ

Multiple sustainability efforts are in process to allow DataQ to persist as an ongoing, evolving resource. Additional grant opportunities are being explored and potential partnerships opportunities with national library organizations and library schools are under discussion. User community feedback and support will be critical to advancing DataQ as a trusted, ongoing resource. Tweet your thoughts or leave feedback on the DataQ site!

The DataQ Team