

Libraries:

Part of the infrastructure of an academic institution

Margaret Law

margaret.law@ualberta.ca

Infrastructure...

...the basic underlying framework or features of a system of organization.

- Physical components (incorporating technology)
- Service components (incorporating values)
- Expertise components

In an analogue world:

- **Collecting and conserving print and other published material**
- **Collecting just in case someone needs it**
- **Researchers had to come to the library**
- **Librarians were both helpers and gatekeepers**

Our values:

- **Effective access to information that people need**
- **Neutrality**
- **Helpfulness**

Our current environment:

- **Globalization**
- **Technology, technology, technology**
- **Trans-disciplinary studies and research**
- **Political and economic expectations**
- **Competition**

New opportunities:

- **Integration into the structure of research**
- **Integration of information into teaching**
- **Roles in creation, production, preservation and use of information**
- **Competition for these opportunities**

Where do librarians fit in? (research)

The University of Alberta Libraries is a recognized leader in providing support for research data management and preservation planning as well as for collecting and preserving data from grant-funded research.

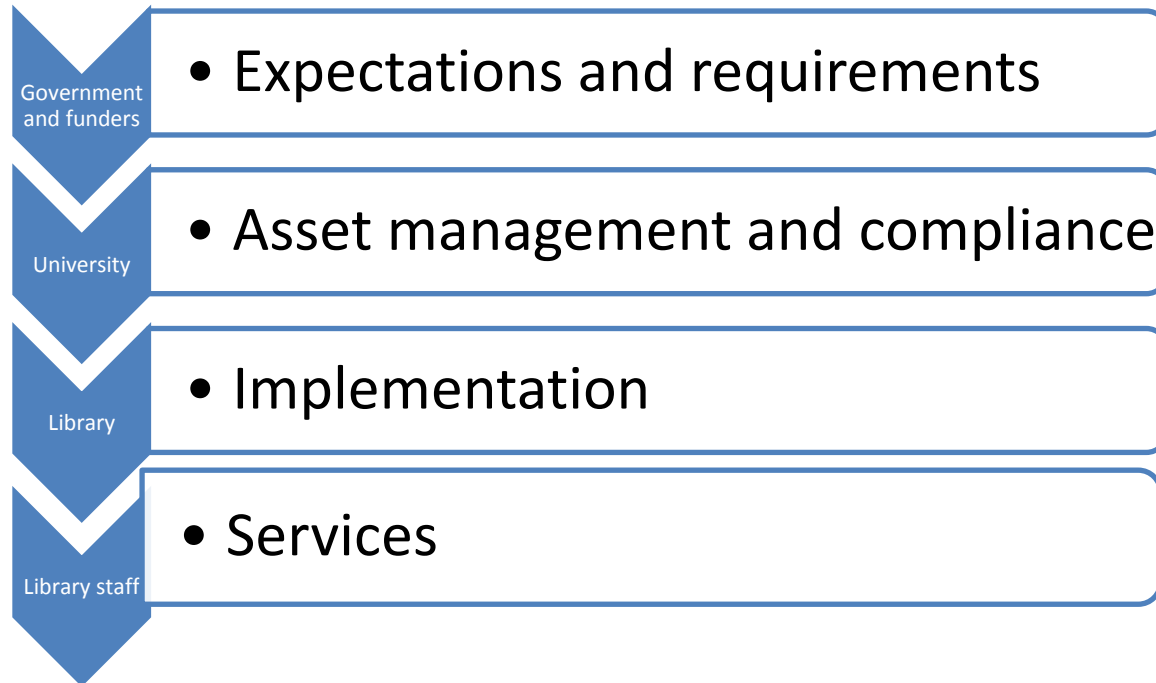
Source: “Distinguishing Outcomes” Strategic Leadership Team, November 2013

Evidence for promoting good data management:

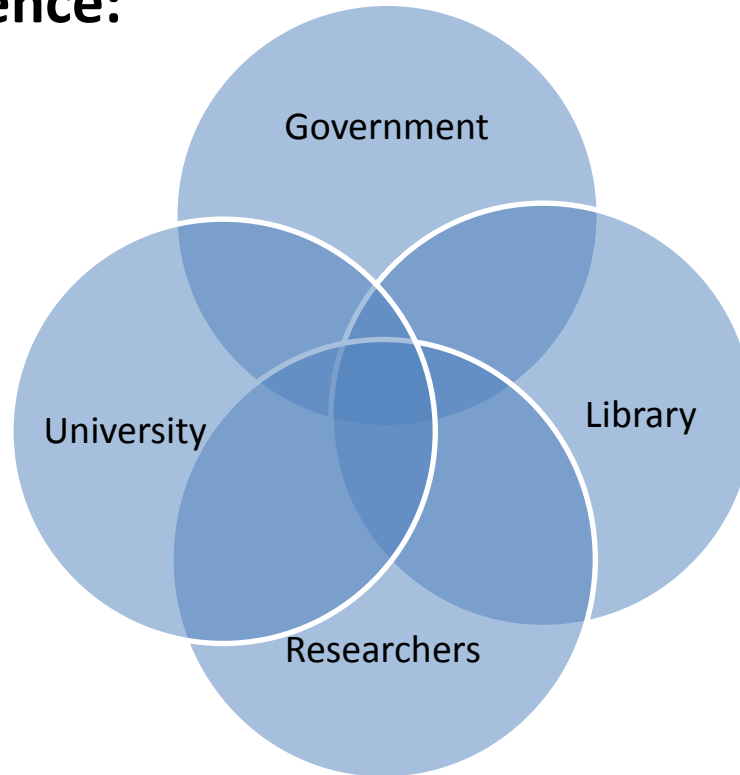
- Fires
- Floods
- Cost
- "Tales of Lost Data"

[http://code.soundsoftware.ac.uk/projects/sodamat/wiki/
Evidence_Promoting_Good_Data_Management](http://code.soundsoftware.ac.uk/projects/sodamat/wiki/Evidence_Promoting_Good_Data_Management)

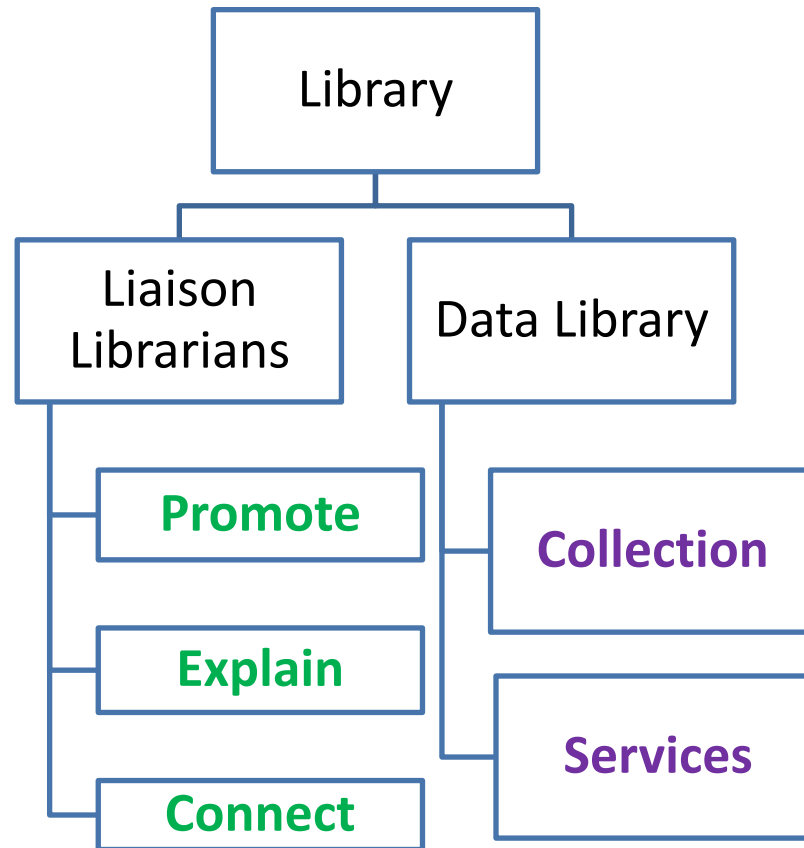
Areas of responsibility:



Areas of influence:



Work flow:



Librarians in the research cycle:

Data Discovery >>> Help from the Data Library

Starting a new research project >>> Help from subject specific LibGuides and liaison librarians

(<https://dmp.library.ualberta.ca/>)

Managing data that has been collected >>> Help from Data Curation Services

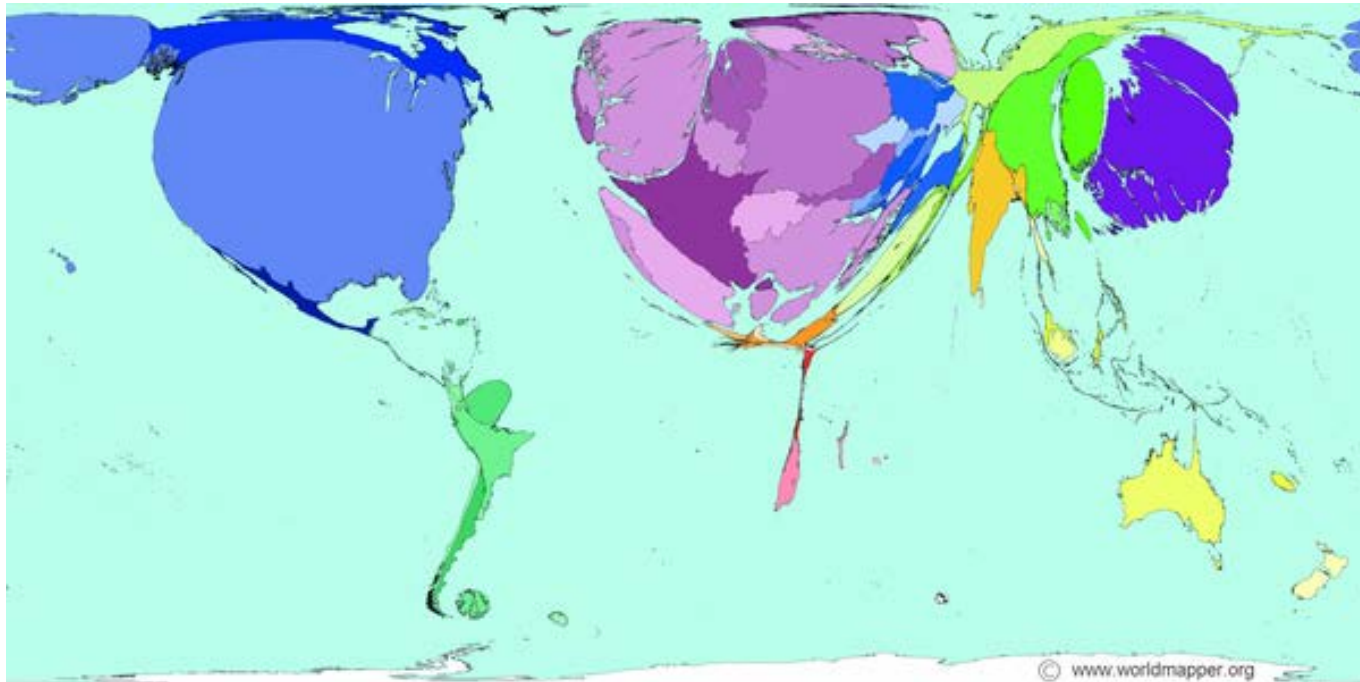
Claiming the library's place:

What are the goals of the university?

How does the library support the achievement of these goals?

What evidence can libraries provide about their role?

From Czerniewicz: Science journals publishing in the early 2000's



Goals of the University:

“retention rates for a diverse community of faculty, staff and students will be improved; ...

research productivity and the number and value of Tricouncil and other funding commitments are increased; ...

partnerships with research organizations and top-tier international collaborators are increased”

Source: Dare to Deliver: Academic Plan 2011-2015 (<http://uofa.ualberta.ca/-/media/ualberta/president/dare-to-discover-docs/d2dacademicplan-2011-2015.pdf>)

How do we know?

Does the library support retention rates for faculty by improving their research success?

Does the library help to support recruitment of top faculty?

Does librarian support help to increase research funding?

Does the library support international collaboration?

Whose responsibility is it?

The message must be short, clear and consistent...

All library staff must understand and be able to talk about the role that the library plays.

All library staff must be proactive in identifying problems and proposing solutions.

Libraries are not an option...

...but what the library contributes and its value is an option.

We must name and claim our role as part of the infrastructure of the institution.

Czerniewicz, L. Inequitable power dynamics of global knowledge production and exchange must be confronted head on.

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2013/04/29/redrawing-the-map-from-access-to-participation>

Humphrey, C. & Hamilton, E. Is it Working? Assessing the Value of the Canadian Data Liberation Initiative. *Bottom Line*. 17 (4), 137-146.

University of Alberta (2013) Research Records Stewardship Guidance (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/.../Research-Records-Stewardship-Guidance>)

University of Alberta Library (2014)
(<http://guides.library.ualberta.ca/content.php?pid=318230&sid=4950794>)