

Openly Sharing Library Data

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Our Principles – Why we Share

Accountable

Open

Responsive

Sustainable

Transparent

“Uplifting the whole people”

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA IS DEDICATED TO THE PROMISE MADE IN 1908 BY FOUNDING PRESIDENT HENRY MARSHALL TORY THAT THE UNIVERSITY WILL ACT IN THE SPIRIT THAT “KNOWLEDGE SHALL NOT BE THE CONCERN OF SCHOLARS ALONE. THE UPLIFTING OF THE WHOLE PEOPLE SHALL BE ITS FINAL GOAL.”

Our Library

Statement of Principle on Non-disclosure clauses

September 9, 2014

“To promote openness and fairness among libraries that license scholarly resources, the University of Alberta Libraries (UAL) will no longer enter into vendor contracts that require non-disclosure of pricing information or other information that does not constitute a trade secret.”

Our Technology

Dataverse open source research data repository software

A general library account was created that one person now manages. This account is linked to our library homepage.

How we Share

- 1) We created a data inventory of what we have to share.
- 2) We started with easily achievable and moved on to more complex.
- 3) We created data dictionaries and FAQ documents so others understand our data.
- 4) We uploaded our data files to Dataverse and publicized them.

What we Share

- 1 List of APIs for scholarly resources available through UALberta Libraries
- 2 GIT Hub account with open code from building our library applications
- 3 Open Data Portal with 16 Data sets:

Subscriptions Expenditures

Large one-time Collection Expenditures
One-time payments for books by vendor
Collection expenditures by vendor
Desk Tracker Data
Collections of bibliographic records
Google analytics for library.ualberta.ca
Ithaka Survey Data
LibQual Survey Data
ARL Statistics

Recommendations

- ❖ Consider your institution’s strategic goals and how sharing your own data could contribute.
- ❖ Look to your library’s policies and how they can be strengthened by openly sharing.
- ❖ Start small with APIs, Google Analytics, Desk Tracker data or other easily produced local data.
- ❖ Create data dictionaries and FAQ documents so your data is understood.
- ❖ Inventorying data is a complex process, don’t let yourself get stuck here.
- ❖ We prepared for negative feedback, but these fears were not realized, so GO FOR IT!



“Proud of @Uofalibraries. Such an important move towards transparency”



“Oh hey @uofalibraries just released subscription costs on their own open data portal. This makes SO MUCH SENSE.”



“Great to see this transparency, and helpful teaching #MLIS students about coll dev budgeting, politics”



“@uofalibraries thank you very much indeed for sharing this data”