

Transcending Silos and Building Bridges:

Fostering the Relationship between Rutgers University Libraries and Office for Research



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Abstract:

This project seeks to establish communication channels between Rutgers University Libraries (RUL) and the Office for Research (OfR) at Rutgers with the goal of improving understanding of each unit's role in supporting research and innovation activities. The project aims to create a working group of stakeholders from both units, breaking down barriers and improving communication between the teams. The project also plans to launch programming for a special cohort, such as training sessions during the onboarding process, to establish a pilot project. To build bridges between the two areas, the project will identify partners, design mechanisms for two-way communication, and create programming opportunities to showcase each area's strengths and contributions to the research process and ecosystem. By enhancing collaboration between Libraries and the Office for Research, this project has the potential to significantly improve research and innovation outcomes at Rutgers and establish a framework for ongoing collaboration between the two units.

Primary Stakeholders:

- Office for Research Executive Leadership Team
- Rutgers University Libraries Leadership Team
- Office for Research Department Heads
- Rutgers Libraries Research Support Teams/Expertise: Scholarly Communication, Citation Management, Research Data Management, and Research Support Services
- Researchers at Rutgers University

Key Steps/Activities:

- Conduct needs assessment to enhance the onboarding experience and engagement with new researchers.
- Create a working group to support the research lifecycle at Rutgers.
- Identify gaps and services that should be strengthened.
- Design a roadmap for ongoing collaboration between the two units, including programming and a communication plan.

Effectiveness Measures:

- **Qualitative assessment:** conduct a study of our stakeholders to examine the current level of support for researchers.
- **Mixed-methods assessment:** measure the impact of our programming by tracking the number of workshops and presentations, collecting data on attendance, and conducting follow-up surveys to determine satisfaction and identify areas that need improvement and support.

Communication/Engagement:

- Report the progress to the Leadership Teams of OfR and RUL.
- Establish working groups with members representing both units to allow two-way communication.
- Leverage communication channels such as websites, research guides, newsletters, department meetings, and orientation/onboarding activities for both units.

Current Status/Future Directions:

- Conversations between the two units are underway to clarify the level of support currently provided to researchers.
- Collaboration between the two units will continue to expand in the research ecosystem.
- Librarians' expertise will be further aligned to support the needs of researchers.

Proposed Timeline:

