An Examination of Research Data Management Roles in Health Science Librarian Positions

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**BACKGROUND**

“All of the roles that appear to be trending up... in both academic and hospital settings—relate to support for research: researcher collaboration tools, bioinformatics, data curation and management”

Crum and Cooper 2013 Pg. 284

**RESEARCH QUESTION:**

Is research data management included as a required or preferred skill in health science librarian job postings?

**YES**

In your current position, are you responsible for any research data management activities?

**NO**

- Only one jobsite searched
- Job postings do not equal jobs
- North American focused sample

Why don’t the postings reflect the emphasis on RDM seen in the literature?

- Responsibility of a cross discipline RDM specialist (Corrall et al 2013)
- RDM being done by members of the research team (Peters et al 2011)
- Librarians may be doing the work, without it being part of their formal job description (Creamer et al 2012)
- RDM is not seen as an important skill for health science librarians

**METHODS**

The search was conducted originally in 2018 and updated in 2019 with new postings.

A total of 579 postings were examined, for jobs posted between April 2017 - May 2019.

Each posting was examined for qualifications or responsibilities that involved research data management

72 Postings met the inclusion criteria from a variety of sectors

- Academic 56%
- Hospital 19%
- Not-for-Profit 13%
- Government 6%
- Association 6%

52 OUT OF 72

Health Sciences librarian jobs examined did not include supporting research data management services, in any capacity, as part of the job description.

**RESULTS**

**REFERENCES**


Creamer, A., Trefethen, W., Cooper, I. et al. An assessment of needed competencies to promote the data curation and management: librarian of health sciences and science and technology librarians in New England. 2012;11:4