The Authority File: Episode 413 Transcript

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Bill Mickey: I really liked sort of hearing you talk about the emphasis, you're putting on the library as a partner, in in sort of helping researchers with their, you know, putting, sharing data into their into their into their workflow. And I'm wondering if we could talk a little bit more about that.

Bill Mickey: Specifically, you know, how can librarians act as a resource and advisor on data sharing policies and repository guidelines? You know, what are some of the more specific areas where they can be helpful?

Emily Farrell: I think there's a tremendous amount that librarians can do. And and there's we're already seeing that in certain institutions.

Emily Farrell: For instance, you know, Carnegie Mellon has a really amazing open science and data collaborations department in their library, and they've been really forward thinking in the ways that they support researchers, not just the sort of written resources we've been talking about, but also in just having office hours where researchers can go and ask all sorts of, you know, all sorts of wild and wonderful questions, and

Emily Farrell: I think that that's that's a really that's sort of a, I suppose kind of the more traditional ways that researchers perhaps think of a publisher versus a library is that, as Rebecca said earlier, that we're often sort of the place they come to once they have their paper draft, and that's a long way after the data collection phase. Librarians, on the other hand, have a chance to be able to, you know, especially with library liaison roles, where they're already connecting into the departments. They're working at a subject level.

Emily Farrell: They can, you know, they're often doing. I mean, I remember doing those sorts of resource trainings that the library would offer to classes and departments. And well, this is how you find reliable resources. Here are some red flags and what you shouldn't be using. Don't cite Wikipedia.

Emily Farrell: That sort of sounds basic type thing, but is worth reminding early career folks about and I think that that having that space to actually consider what it might mean to share your data before you even collect data. I think when I think about the book project that I was part of

Emily Farrell: no, we had all very much completely finished our research, had each done a PhD, published articles out of our data and then bringing it all together, you know, it would have been a much less arduous process if we had just thought about some of the ways that we could unify that data if we'd done that from the very beginning. And I mean, I think that there's maybe there's some concern that that would affect the way you approach a research project.

Emily Farrell: But I think you know, there are even small things like, if you're working with data that needs to be transcribed. It's language data that you think about a more unified way of the sorts of transcription conventions you use. So, and I think that that is a really important role that the library can play in in getting to researchers on campus even before they start.

Rebecca Taylor-Grant: Yeah, I also think when it comes to kind of the support or guidance that a publisher can provide, we are quite focused on policies that apply to our journals, whereas I think

Rebecca Taylor-Grant: librarians are more aware of, like the intersection of institutional and funder policies at the same time. And I think it's a concern that authors often have, that they are subject to multiple policies from multiple stakeholders. And that's not something that a journal editorial team can necessarily support them with, whereas I think it's much more the role of the library and institution to give that kind of support.

Bill Mickey: Yep, yeah, that's an excellent point.

Bill Mickey: We've also seen some examples of academic libraries hiring researchers into the library and starting these innovative, you know, service oriented groups to support open science initiatives, you know, for example, ensuring reproducibility, and so on. Do you see like a sort of parallel to initiatives for HSS Research?

Emily Farrell: I think that would be fantastic. I think that that because there are as we've we've talked about, there are so many different ways across humanities and social sciences that that support is needed, that more kind of granular responses to individual questions about approaching data, sharing in humanities and social sciences subjects. You really need that that expertise people that have gone through the process themselves,

Emily Farrell: who are able to spend time thinking about the needs from these different discipline and subdisciplinary perspectives. If I had any say in library hiring, I would certainly recommend it, and I could see that there would be a really

Emily Farrell: you know, benefit beneficial impact on how you could actually get the word out. And as Rebecca was saying, that's really part of the challenges. We can, you know, create as many resources as you like, but leading people to those resources and looking at how to get that level of engagement. That's the that's the next step.

Rebecca Taylor-Grant: I also think there's so much overlap when you're thinking about open research and data curation between the roles of librarians. What we call research data managers or data curators, also

Rebecca Taylor-Grant: institutions, hosting, repository infrastructure. So there's kind of a space where all these things connected an institution. And I wouldn't want to say that this is not already happening. So I'm sure there's some very innovative projects happening in in HSS data space that I might not be aware of, and some that I am.

Bill Mickey: Excellent. So just, you know, regarding, you know the importance of Academic libraries in in this role, how important is it you know to for them to take a leadership role in providing, you know, data sharing services and support?

Emily Farrell: I think it's really important. You know, again, back to what we said. It's you know, we've, we, as publishers can pay you know as much attention to it as we can, but we all sort of in in the broader ecosystem, and stakeholders need to sort of influence where we can, and

Emily Farrell: libraries are filled with people that are really keenly aware of the pressures, the concerns around policy compliance, the issues around reproducibility and replicability as they apply to humanities and social sciences, researchers. And I think, there's, you know,

Emily Farrell: and around research integrity issues, there's so much that that libraries are already doing. As Rebecca said, you know there's a lot of leadership there already, and I think, just continuing that. And and you know, the more we can work together, I think the better.

Bill Mickey: And as you said earlier, Emily, by the time a researcher is that the point where they're interacting with a publisher, they're already way downstream from you know that that original research workflow. So yeah.

Bill Mickey: Okay, excellent. That's all the time we have Rebecca and Emily. Thank you so much for joining us on the program.

Emily Farrell: Thanks so much, Bill. It's always a pleasure.