Two Heads are Better than One: Creating Partnerships Between University Libraries and Offices of Research

Christina Leigh Docteur, Office of Research
Chetna Chianese, Office of Research
Emily Hart, Libraries
Brenna Helmstutler, Libraries
Anne Rauh, Libraries
Agenda

● Unit profiles
● Presentation themes
● What prompted collaboration?
● Collaboration activities
  ○ Research reputation
  ○ Training and networking
  ○ Administration
● Future efforts
● Conclusion
● Questions
Setting the Stage
Syracuse University

- Private research university
- R1 (Research Intensive) Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Ed (up from R2 in 2015)
- 15,000 undergraduates
- 5,000 graduate students
Office of Research

- 5 administrative units + main office
- Led by Interim VP since January 2020
- ~40 total staff
- 2 interdisciplinary centers also included but operate independently
Proposal Support Services

- Created in 2018 to support proposal, research, and faculty development efforts
- Institution-wide intramural grant programs (CUSE Grants+)
- Limited submission and award nomination management
- Funding opportunity circulation
- Grant development for large or multidisciplinary projects
- Hub of “SU RD Team” working with staff in schools, colleges and other support units

The Office of Proposal Support Services is responsible for supporting Syracuse University’s proposal, research and faculty development efforts. This includes facilitating team-based collaboration around strategic funding opportunities, and managing the University’s internal funding competitions, including both seed grant programs and externally funded limited submissions.
Syracuse University Libraries

- 4.8 million items
- 1.2 million visits annually
- 205 total staff FTE
  - 53 librarians
  - 161 student employees
- Organized like an academic college
  - Dean reports to provost
  - Associated deans focused on research & academics
- Includes Syracuse University Press
Department of Research and Scholarship

Head of Collections and Research Services

- Subject Instruction Team Lead
  - Liaison Librarians
- Research Impact Team Lead
  - Liaison Librarians
- Digital and Open Scholarship Team Lead
  - Open Scholarship and Data Librarians
- Collections Team Lead
  - Collection Development, Government Documents, and Architecture Librarians
Research Impact Team

Team focuses on supporting the University Research Enterprise at both institutional and individual level.

- RIM System
- Research Metrics Challenge
- Scholarly Metrics Guide
- ORCID
- Funding Discovery
- Systematic Reviews
Presentation Themes

- Enhancement of research reputation
- Collaboration
- Efficiency
What Prompted Collaboration?

Syracuse University

Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs

Fingerprint
Dive into the research topics where Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs is active. These topic labels come from the works of this organization's members. Together they form a unique fingerprint.

- Panel Data
  BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

- Evidence
  SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Politics
  SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Geography
  SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Estimator
  BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

- Policy
  EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

- Labor
  SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Random Effects
  BUSINESS & ECONOMICS
Restructuring to Focus on Research

New & Unique Campus Support Structures

- **Associate Deans for Research (ADRs) Leadership Group**
  - Formed in response to SU’s mission of increasing research trajectory
  - Platform for driving research initiatives & facilitating research support

- **Office/division restructuring**
  - Office of Research – Proposal Support Services – 3 new positions
  - Libraries – Department of Research & Scholarship – focus teams including Digital & Open Scholarship and Research Impact

- **Initiatives to support & promote interdisciplinary research**
  - Internal grants
  - New faculty hires
  - Interdisciplinary institutes for research
Identifying & Filling in the Gaps

- Holistic planning around University initiatives and the research lifecycle
  - Connecting researchers to funding opportunities
  - Proposal development
  - Support for research activities
  - Promoting & disseminating research works
  - Enhancing the research reputation of the university

- Coming together to complete the puzzle
  - Limited reach ➔ greater reach, more impactful together!
  - Reducing duplication of resources & services
  - Capitalize on existing services, shared knowledge, connections & resources
  - Increased ability to support researchers in a holistic way and respond to changing needs and priorities of the University
Collaboration Activities: Research Reputation
Experts@Syracuse

- SU profiles are designed for research-active faculty and subject librarians. Staff assisting with profile management are added as users.

- Student Employee
  - 20 hours/week
  - Projects
  - Documents
  - Research Guide
Outreach Activities

- Women in Science & Engineering (WISE): 2-part webinar for students on research impact and funding opportunity sources
- Upcoming OCLC Works in Progress Webinar: Providing robust research support services at Syracuse University through cross-campus partnerships
- Faculty FUNding:
  - Interactive workshop for faculty planned but canceled due to pandemic.
  - Reframe content with virtual faculty videos discussing successful grant application and preceding SU Libraries research interactions
Collaboration Activities: Learning, Training, and Networking
Cross-Campus Partners & Shared Learning

- Research support developed & provided by multiple campus stakeholders (see recent OCLC report)
- Shared learning between units facilitated by meetings & workshops
- Active development of jointly hosted events for librarians, staff, and faculty

Figure from OCLC report “Social Interoperability in Research Support: Cross-Campus Partnerships and the University Research Enterprise”
Training Sessions

● “Utilizing Experts@Syracuse” – training research admins & RD professionals to both help populate and to utilize the data

● Pure User Group
  o PSS & Library reps jointly attended conference jointly to learn about the tool and spend dedicated time focused on the tool.
  o Allowed for power brainstorming between us off campus!

● Joint resource trainings and research guides
  o Scopus
  o Mendley
  o InCites
  o DMPTool
Funding Discovery

- Pivot – maintained by Office of Research, but training guides produced by PSS and Libraries
- Foundation Directory Online – subscribed by Library, but trainings supported by both
- Funding Discovery Tools for Librarians – Office of Research trains librarians to apply for grants (institutional process), and techniques to support funding searches
- Joint hosting of trainings for all these tools
Collaboration Activities: Administration
Productivity Enhancements

- Co-teaching = broader audience reach, deeper content, & co-learning
  - Increased registration for sessions due to co-advertisement
  - Attendees benefit from different angles & voices on topics
  - PSS thinks “bibliometrics” and Library thinks “PIVOT-framing”

- We’re our own best customers
  - Funding Discovery Tools for Librarians
  - Build Your Experts Profile

- Increasing staff capacity by leveraging combined talent
  - Librarians serve as intramural grant & limited submission reviewers
  - RD leaders sit on library hiring committees & advise promotion & tenure cases
Shared Costs Savings

Shared costs ⪞ more resources

- A simple equation
- More resources for research initiatives & staff development
  - PURE “Experts” $$ split; jointly sponsoring sessions for 2x coverage at ½ cost; hosting more on-campus visitors
  - “Shared” prof. development means exposure to new communities through shared presentations
- Or ... less resource cutting due to COVID-based strain
Leveraging Platforms, Data & Knowledge

- Co-teaching, learning (and paying) increases awareness of, support for & leverage across platforms!
  - Enhanced faculty activity/expertise profiles (Experts@Syracuse)
  - Increased institutional data repository awareness & usage (SURFACE)
  - Improved web pages/research guides to supplement training and resources from both units

- Enhanced proposal development support
  - Ex. Humanities RD & Philosophy librarian team

- Greater grant compliance
  - With open access (data management plans) and SciENV
Conclusion
Selected Future Collaborations

● Moving from reactionary to evidence-based planning
  ○ Needs assessment of school/college research leadership
  ○ Faculty focus groups – use of metrics, research dissemination habits, research support needs

● ORCID institutional subscription

● Institutional Research collaboration to better understand university rankings related to research

● Collaborative development of marketing materials on topics
  ○ Funding discovery tools AND Funding opportunities
  ○ Support services for researchers at different stages of research lifecycle

● Continued shared promotion of resources and services

● Development of new faculty/staff joint training opportunities
Takeaways from the Joint Efforts

- Enhanced Syracuse University visibility (and reputation!)
- Understanding evolution of research emphasis
- Strong line of communication and shared goals between units
- Overall, positive outcomes for faculty, staff, students

Connecting pieces of the research lifecycle
Questions?
Contact Information

Christina Leigh Docteur, Office of Research, cdocteur@syr.edu
Chetna Chianese, Office of Research, cchianes@syr.edu
Emily Hart, Syracuse University Libraries, ekhart@syr.edu
Brenna Helmstutler, Syracuse University Libraries, bhelmstu@syr.edu
Anne Rauh, Syracuse University Libraries, aerauh@syr.edu