

**Michelle Bass**  
**AAHSL Data Management Training Scholarship Report**  
**Research Data Access and Preservation Summit 2016**

Thanks to the AAHSL Data Management Training Scholarship, I was able to attend and present at the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Research Data Access and Preservation Summit in Atlanta, GA May 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Attendance was around 120 participants, primarily librarians, complemented by information scientists and information technology practitioners. Based on conversations throughout the summit, I'd estimate a quarter of attendees work primarily with health science data on a daily basis; however, one of the most important takeaways from the summit, and something I believed to be true prior to attendance, is that data management is agnostic and its principles should be applied to any format or type of data, regardless of field.

While the data lifecycle is discipline agnostic, it was valuable to hear about the specific ways in which health science focused librarians and information professionals are connecting with faculty, students, and liaison librarians at their institutions. The New England Regional Medical Library had strong representation at the conference and their great work with the [NECDMC](#) was highlighted. I used the NECDMC to teach basic data management to my colleagues at the John Crerar Library this past winter quarter and look forward to the on-demand review capabilities librarians will have access to as the curriculum is created into a MOOC in the coming months.

Educating non-data focused librarians on the data life cycle was a common thread throughout the summit and one I will continue to pursue at my own library. I was inspired by programming examples about educating the larger university community about data management and life cycle features, particularly [Yale's Day of Data](#) event. Learning more about [figshare](#), [Center for Open Science](#), and [SHARE](#) in one-on-one consultations was much appreciated and I have already approached colleagues at the University of Chicago Library about how we can use these resources to support our strategic direction of advancing digital scholarship.

I found the #rdap16 Twitter conversations to be thought provoking complements to the formal conference presentations. Below are some of the questions I personally posed which fostered dialogue on Twitter:

- Is there a responsibility 4 large/better funded libraries to open their data repositories to others? #rdap16 Grow the sharing?
- Are we approaching a #datadivide? Or at least a software that can analyze/visualize #datadivide b/c \$\$\$? #rdap16
- How many #rdap16 attendees have the word data in your title? Do titles matter? They sure do with tenure.

The different service models shared were inspiring but there was a back channel of discussion focused on the feasibility of sustaining multiple services with only one designated data librarian or, more accurately, librarian who has multiple responsibilities including working with data. Bringing these varied service and staffing models back to

the University of Chicago Library is one of the most valuable outcomes from my summit attendance. There were small liberal arts colleges who had multiple library staff focused on data management and research data services, such as [Middlebury College](#), as well as large R1 institutions like the [University of Michigan who have entire service centers across disciplines and are able to provide in-depth training opportunities on data management to liaison librarians](#). [Carnegie Mellon University's inclusion of the library as a specific strategic recommendation](#) for the future of their university was quite inspiring as was the institutional financial support for the Science Direct suite of research impact and collaboration tools. It is important to have these types of examples to share with my home institution; even if we cannot act on them now, I can optimistically hope that increased institutional support for services and staff for research data services will follow our library's strategic plan in the coming years.