

Data Libraries

The trend towards the digital data in libraries has been picked up since the 1970s with electronic catalogues and evolved into the broader concept of a "Digital Library" in the 1990s. Recently, new forms of scholarly communication had impact on how libraries deliver service: they support reporting requirements, manage complex business relations, and provide "research intelligence" for the University. Through managing complex logistics, including authentication and authorisation of large numbers of user accounts, maintaining highly consistent and reliable metadata, providing electronic resources, and statistics libraries are becoming a data powerhouse of the university. Now, academic libraries transform their function for the 21st century: Research Data Management is becoming a new priority for libraries that widens the scope even further. Since libraries traditionally dealt with books, it is often staying unnoticed how relevant the data management and curation capacities of libraries can be for research data management in the institution. Supporting researchers from disciplines that do not have national or international data services in their community – sometimes called the 'long tail' of research data – is increasingly performed by libraries. But also 'big data' is getting into the focus. Today, libraries help in getting persistent identifiers, perform author identification, provide data publishing, curate bibliographic data, solve copyright questions, develop virtual research environments or provide assertions for durable storage and preservation of research data. Libraries are transcending their traditionally physical function by becoming a sustainable virtual data infrastructure on the campus and beyond.