



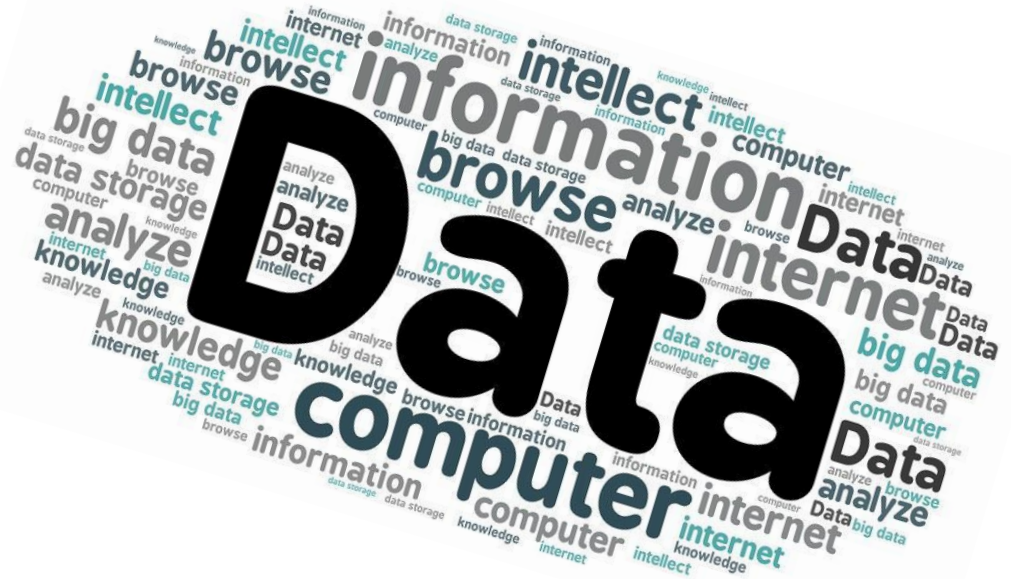
Data Librarianship: A Primer

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Corporate Services Branch, Division of Administration

July 7, 2023

Overview

- Librarians and Data?
- The Users of Data
- Data Acquisition
- Public Data
- Data Stewardship
- Data Catalogs
- Data Storage
- Data Citation
- Data Literacy
- Data and Librarians!

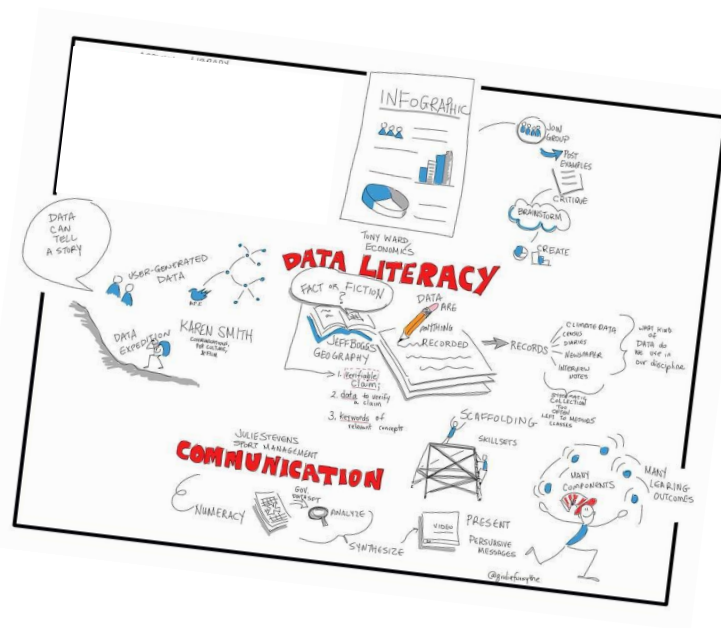


<https://www.flickr.com/photos/182229932@N07/49054996101>

Librarians and Data?

Senior Data & Analytics Librarian, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
(March 20, 2023)

- ...create a Bank-wide data literacy program
- ...partner with ...individuals involved in information technology to create programs around the development of services on data management
- ...train and create educational programs for ...staff on best practices for data management, description, archiving, and dissemination of data.
- ...advise staff on practical solutions to manage, archive and disseminate their data in a relevant way
- ...collaborate with other data analytics professionals on ...projects and initiatives.
- ...participate in research, digital preservation projects, and administrative duties
- ...lead data initiatives and workgroups



https://rb.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/FRS/job/Atlanta-GA/Data---Analytics-Librarian_R-0000013683?q=data%20librarian

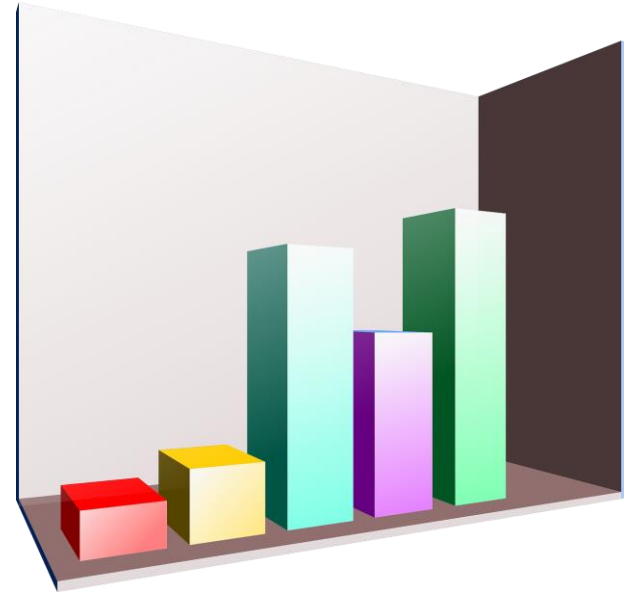
Data Librarians

Current [ALAJobList](#) Openings as of June 30, 2023:

- Data Management Librarian
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA (Hybrid)
<https://joblist.ala.org/jobs/view/data-management-librarian/69742885/>
- Data and Digital Scholarship Librarian
Reed College, Portland, Oregon, USA (On-Site)
<https://joblist.ala.org/jobs/view/data-and-digital-scholarship-librarian/69592249/>
- Program Manager, Data Services and Emerging Technologies
Universities at Shady Grove, Rockville, Maryland, USA (On-Site)
<https://joblist.ala.org/jobs/view/program-manager-data-services-and-emerging-technologies/69494122/>

The Users of Data

- A combination of current users of information... and folks that would never think of the library as a source of support
- Typically focused exclusively on their current needs; not aware of how others in the organization are using data
- Not always aware of the options for sources of data
- Definitely not aware of the terms and conditions that may need to be both negotiated and then honored when data is purchased from a commercial provider



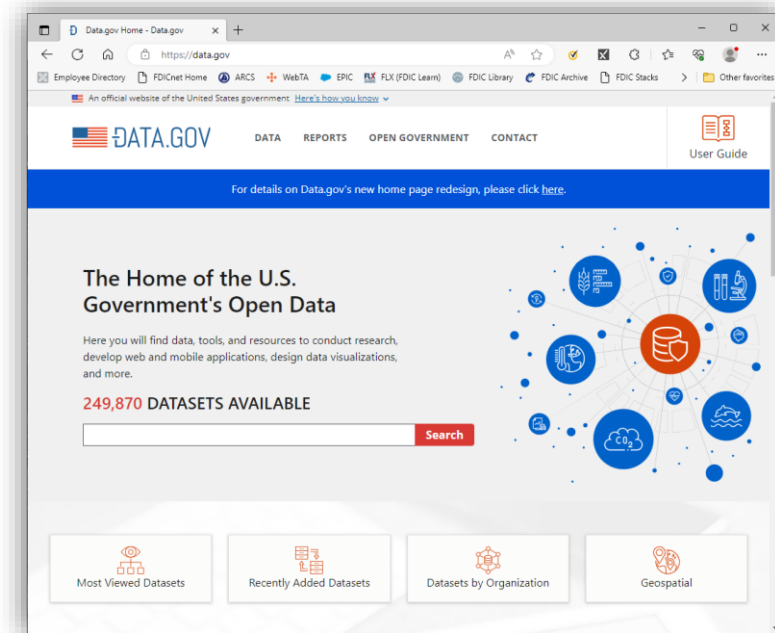
Data Acquisition

- Even free data often comes with terms and conditions surrounding:
 - its use,
 - ability to share,
 - aggregate, and
 - create derivative works
- Users need to be able to articulate how they want to use the data in order to get what they need
- You may need to delete data at the end of a use agreement; and provide certification that all data has been deleted
- Budgeting for data... requires engagement with users, management, and administration



Public Data

- There is a LOT of free data available from federal, state, provincial, municipal, and local governments
- Free data still needs to be described, managed, updated, correlated, or integrated with other sources
- Librarians are great navigators and can help users understand the true cost of “free” and the true value of good, curated data



<https://data.gov>

Data Stewardship

- Data stewards are responsible for maintaining data for use.
- There can be many different types of stewards:
 - Tactical Stewards take daily care of the data
 - Collaborative Stewards work with users and other stewards to set operation procedures
 - Executive Stewards make decisions about the environment for data within the organization
- Together these stewards provide governance, strategy, and leadership for data management across the enterprise.

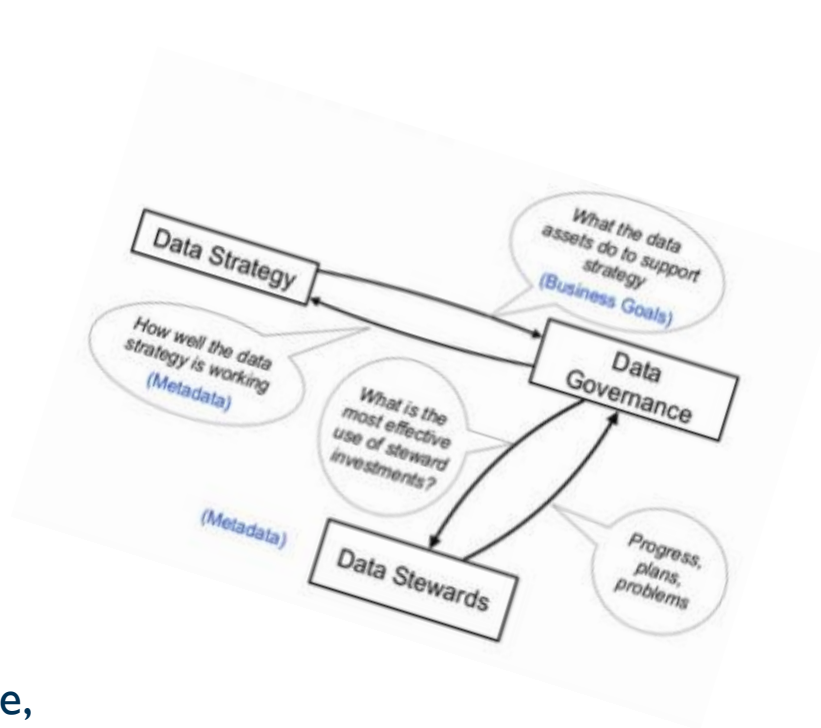


Image: www.dataplanebrint.com

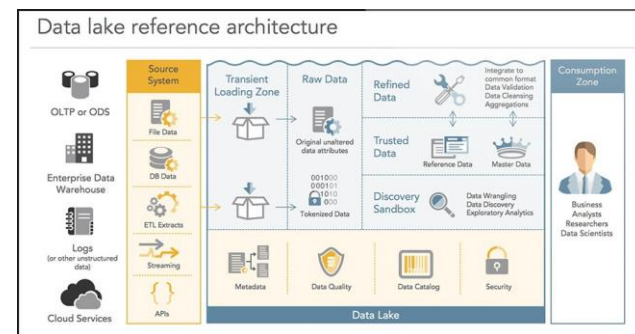
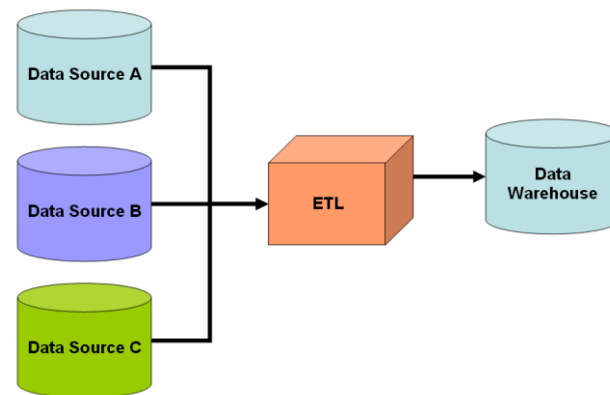
Data Catalogs

- Capture and manage provenance, use cases, and information that helps users evaluate, select, and access data to meeting the organization's mission
- Not just a catalog, these tools can capture information automatically, suggest relationships, and assist with identifying issues with systems, data sets, and even down to the data elements
- Information science is at the core of data catalogs but their sophistication would put most library catalogs to shame
- Catalogs support extractions, transformations, and integrations and can support data warehouses, data lakes, and data meshes



Data Storage (Lakes/Meshes/Lake Houses)

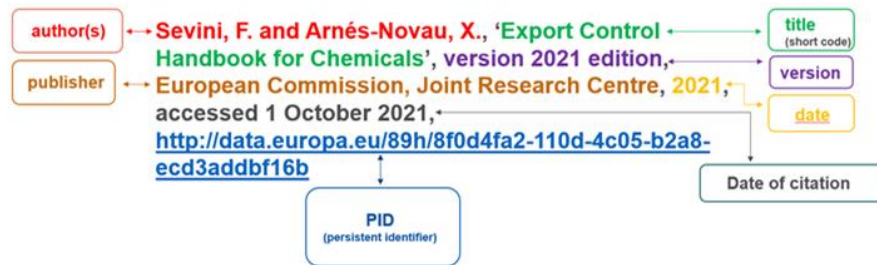
- Where data lives is a critical component to making it accessible and useful to an organization
- The best options support multiple users and “orchestrations” that ensure data is easily combined and integrated
- Security is critical for sensitive data but today you can manage security down to the data element level, allowing maximum utility while ensuring sensitive information is protected
- Be cognizant of the mosaic effect... where combining multiple sources can create sensitive information.



Data Citation

- Properly citing data is critical to allowing reproducibility and instilling trust in the results of analysis
- It's also important to train and support data users in documenting their methodologies so that their results are trustworthy
- Librarians are well versed in citation; its practice and the value of accurately citing sources

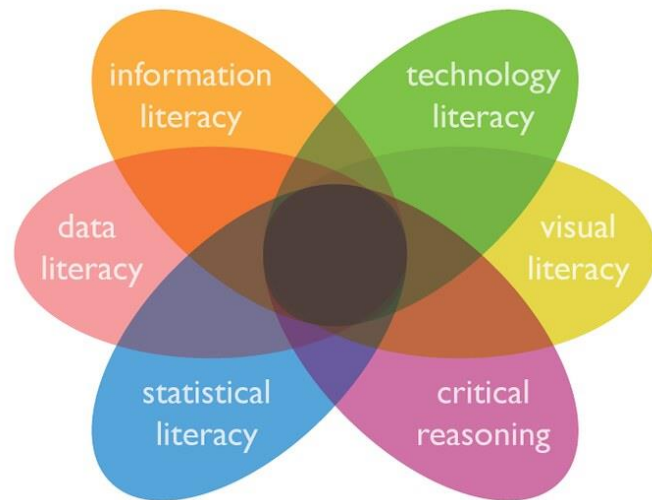
Data citation



Publications Office of the European Union, Jessop, P., *Data citation : a guide to best practice*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2022, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2830/59387>

Data Literacy

- Data Literacy is just one more of the many literacies that today's librarians need to understand and incorporate in their interactions with users
- Everyone in an organization generates and uses data. Sometimes they need assistance visualizing data; interpreting data; or assessing the quality and value of data
- The responsibility for data literacy is shared across the organization and up to leadership - to ensure that everyone knows how to use data to make informed decisions



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/notbrucelee/7159036564>

Data and Librarians!

- Given the work that needs to be done to manage data as an asset in organizations... it is easy to see how librarians and information professionals need to be at table.
- Being at the table does not mean taking on another task without resources and support.. But it can mean allocating resources to support the full life cycle of information within an organization.



Questions?

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