WHAT DO THEY* NEED?

*Insert your users (patrons) of choice here

Thoughts on libraries, use, research practices, and services

Patricia Hswe | Penn State University Libraries
Meeting in the Library: Academic Labor at the Interface
Roundtable Session | 2011 MLA Convention
My work as Digital Collections Curator
SERVICES, SERVICES, SERVICES!

“A library is a growing organism.”
~ Ranganathan’s Fifth Law ~
What we’re doing at Penn State building capacity

• Inreach/Outreach Team

• Data Management Planning Group

• Re-thinking publishing services, collection development, role of subject librarians
  - Can’t do this, however, without collaboration with faculty and students (especially graduate students).
Projects in the works

• The People’s Contest
• Transformations
• Penn State Center for Oral History (College of Communications)
• Institute for Information Policy
• Digital archive of materials on religion in former Soviet Union
A new impetus

Press Release 10-077

Scientists Seeking NSF Funding Will Soon Be Required to Submit Data Management Plans

Government-wide emphasis on community access to data supports substantive push toward more open sharing of research data

May 10, 2010

During the May 5th meeting of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation (NSF) officials announced a change in the implementation of the existing policy on sharing research data. In particular, on or around October, 2010, NSF is planning to require that all proposals include a data management plan in the form of a two-page supplementary document. The research community will be informed of the specifics of the anticipated changes and the agency's expectations for the data management plans.

The changes are designed to address trends and needs in the modern era of data-driven science.
I encourage libraries and IT shops building data-management services on the strength of the NSF’s plan requirement **to diversify, and that quickly.** Find non-NSF people to help. Do a survey or focus-group study to demonstrate non-NSF-related data-management needs. Pay some attention to the digital humanities. Do not plan to rely on a flood of NSF applicants; that flood is highly unlikely to materialize. There’s plenty of work to do, don’t get me wrong; most of the work just doesn’t happen to be NSF work.

“We need to understand how they do research, how they use our current resources, why some of them don’t use the library, and what they want from the library that they’re not currently getting.”