Background

APRIL 2008 The National Institutes of Health (NIH) mandated that all publications accepted after April 7, 2008 and resulting from NIH support must be made publicly available within 1 year of publication. The Arnold Library at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC) initiated efforts to assist their constituents with compliance to this policy.

JUNE 2012 The Arnold Library began a project to quantify the FHCRC’s compliance to the NIH policy, collecting data on their relevant publications and library activities.

JULY 2013 The NIH will start delaying the processing of non-competing continuation awards for which policy applicability could not be determined.

Capstone Project

This project aimed to build off of the previous data gathering for 2009-2011 FHCRC publications (3169 total publications), analyze compliance factors locally, and determine if the new NIH Compliance Monitor Tool would be a sufficient tracking mechanism for future assessment.

Phase I. Build
Built & populated a database containing all 2009-2011 FHCRC publications and their associated compliance-relevant data.

Phase II. Analyze
Using the database from Phase I, completed an analysis of NIH Public Access Policy compliance of past FHCRC publications and calculated compliance rates across several variables.

Phase III. Recommend
Provided recommendations for future interventions and compliance tracking based on the findings in Phase II.

Results

FHCRC results: 91%*
Compliance rate

NIH results: 88% compliance rate

Compliance Factors

Not compliant 5%
Not compliant, but cannot determine if required 21%
Not compliant, but not required 1%
55% Compliant
17% Compliant, but cannot determine if required
1% Compliant, but not required

Compliance by Reporting Tool

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Assessment

Overall Compliance
The FHCRC compliance rate was slightly better than the NIH reported figures (91% vs. 88%). Taking the publications for which the policy applicability is uncertain into account, the rate dropped to 73%.

Compliance by Specific Factor
Analysis by journal, publisher and grant provided useful metrics for future interventions. The study of impact by intervention requires further investigation.

FHCRC vs. NIH Reporting
The FHCRC reported more publications than its NIH counterpart, suggesting a more narrow NIH definition of institutional responsibility towards compliance.

Recommendations

Additional Analysis
To better understand the library’s impact on the institute’s compliance rates, expand the assessment of interventions beyond those tracked by email.

Additional Targeted Interventions
Target specific grantees and authors that regularly publish in specific journals where compliance is low.

Enhanced Intervention Tracking
Adopt a ticket-tracking system or a direct database logging practice that allows for quick database updating and continuous compliance impact.

Hybrid Tracking Tool
To more efficiently track and analyze future compliance, adopt a tool that integrates NIH-reported data with a local intervention-tracking system.

Impact

- FHCRC NIH policy compliance
- Understanding of institute’s publishing behavior
- External access to FHCRC research
- Opportunities for research collaborations
- Potential for biomedical advances towards improving human health

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Capstone Event | June 6, 2013