

2017 AAHSL Data Management Training Scholarship Report On 2018 RDAP Summit

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Thanks to the AAHSL Data Management Training Scholarship, I was able to attend the 2018 Research Data Access & Preservation (RDAP) Summit that was held in Chicago, IL from March 21-23, 2018.ⁱ

The RDAP Summit takes place annually, hosted by ASIS&T (Association for Information Science and Technology). The Summit usually lasts two days followed by a Data Carpentry Workshop. Its attendees are mostly data managers, curators, and data librarians or those who work with research data, researchers, and data scientists.

I chose the RDAP Summit because the topics it covers are of interest to me and they are also helpful in creating a data literacy tutorial, a project that we have been planning and discussing to undertake in order to meet the needs of our students and researchers. Here are some examples of the topics covered: data management plans and policies, data citation, curation service models, data management sustainability, training data management practitioners, institutional repository case studies, data publication repositories, data archives, etc.

This year's RDAP Summit included a keynote speech, six panels, a session of lightning talks, semi-structured group discussions, and a poster session. I found all of these sessions to be very informative and well presented. I learned a lot from this year's Summit. From the keynote speech by the Chief Data Officer of the City of Chicago, I learned about the city's open data initiative, now a national model for other cities that seek to have their open data endeavors. The city's daily-updated open data portal releases data on all sorts of aspects about the city. Open data makes the city government more efficient, effective, and transparent.

The six panels presented were:

- 1) *Defining the Role of the Library in Research Data Management within an Institution*. The panel featured cases from libraries sharing how they identified what they could do and what limitations they had as well as how they developed their relationship with other stakeholders within the university.
- 2) *Intersection of Publishing and Data*. The session was about how scholarly publishing and data sharing could develop together in supporting the research process.
- 3) *Underserved Data Communities: Understanding Access & Preservation Bias*. The panel addressed how the underserved data communities could be provided with better access to research data.
- 4) *FAIR vs. Friction*. This panel discussed the conflict between the value of rigorous standards such as FAIR (Find, Access, Interoperate, and Reuse) for data sharing and the need to decrease friction in data sharing processes.
- 5) *Research Reproducibility – How Data Librarians Are Getting Involved*. In this panel, the panelists shared how they were involved in reproducible research in various ways.

- 6) *Data Quality: Curation Services, Metadata, and Metrics*. This panel covered three areas that affect data quality – a) how data curation affects discoverability and reuse of data; b) how data curation becomes more efficient and collaborative; c) how metrics are developed to measure impact on reuse of content in digital repositories? ⁱⁱ

All the panels were presented with much useful information, valuable experiences, and many good lessons as well as insightful ideas and thoughts. Following the panels were eight lightning talks, which were also very informative despite their briefness. In the semi-structured discussions, participants discussed various topics around several tables, with each table focusing on one topic and participants rotating every few minutes.

After the RDAP Summit was concluded, I was also able to attend the workshops in Track A on the last day:

- 1) *Improving the Quality and Quantity of RDM Interactions on Campus: Optimizing UMAMI (Uptake, Metadata, Archiving, Metrics and Intellectual Property)*, instructed by A. De Waard, and J. Shipman from Elsevier Research Data Services.
- 2) *CMU and Figshare — the journey toward an all-in-one repository*, instructed by M. Hahnel, A. Hyndman, D. Valen from Figshare.

The full-day program ended with an interactive workshop on Building with Carpentries. Attendees learned what data carpentry is, how to get involved with a data carpentry, and how to host one, etc.

I very much appreciated being awarded the data scholarship by AAHSL. After coming back from the Summit, I conducted a brownbag session in April 2018 for my fellow librarians at the Rutgers health sciences libraries. At that session, I shared what I learned and how we could apply the information and knowledge that I gained in creating a data literacy tutorial for our users. We are now in the process of planning and developing a set of data literacy tutorials in a mixed format (online, audio, visual, and textual) for students and researchers. The completed set will be posted and made publicly available.

ⁱ <https://www.asist.org/rdap/program-2018/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.asist.org/rdap/session-topics/>