

Creating a Centralized Data Repository

The University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center at Dallas Library

VISION:
***BUILDING EFFECTIVE,
SUSTAINABLE, PRACTICAL
ASSESSMENT***

1

PROBLEM

- Many staff members collect data
- Several systems store data
- Finding and analyzing data is time-consuming
- Data collection is chaotic

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OUR PROGRESS

- Examined data needs of Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) survey
- Documented who collected data and how
- Mapped survey questions and data collection processes to current data storage areas
- Performed literature review of possible solutions

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METHODOLOGY

- Document current data collection procedures and roles
- Discover which solutions are being used in similar environments
- Find a solution that works for our library

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LESSONS LEARNED

- “Just in case” data collection is safer than “just in time” but less efficient
- Staff must be continually involved
- Effective communication is essential
- Project scope may broaden

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FUTURE STEPS

- Evaluate current and emerging technologies
- Design repository based on AAHSL data that is
 - Flexible
 - Easy to use
 - Accessible
- Repeat methodology for additional external library surveys and other data needs

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