2016-04-17 Trip Report -- Force16

Portland, OR
April 17-19
https://www.force11.org/meetings/force2016

April 17, 2016

Workshop – OpenRIF and VIVO

Organized by Melissa Handel. Good crowd. Good presentations. Here's the VIVO presentation. https://figshare.com/articles/OpenRIF_and_VIVO/3180373

Met Steve van Tuyl from Oregon State

Workshop – Organizational Identifiers

Organized by CrossRef, ORCiD, THOR, DataCite

Big crowd

Why and how will we get organizational identifiers. PIDapolooza, Reykjavik, November 9-10, 2015

Met Micah Altman, MIT http://micahaltman.com/

Met Stacey Konkiel, Altmetrics

Hacking the OpenVIVO Data

Well, a small group got together and shared some things about their work. Simon Porter showed us an early version of his Twitter Bootstrap UI for VIVO – very impressive – lean, modern look, responsive interface, improved access to information. Looking forward to seeing more about this.

April 18, 2016

Plenary Session

Cameron Neylon

Melissa Haendel working on phenotypes. Introduce http://openvivo.org from the podium.

Steven Pinker, Harvard – why we communicate badly

Caesar Hidalgo, MIT – data visualization

Christie Nicholson, Journalist – Communicating Science, Distilling your message. She used a baseball situation as a test case – baseball is complex to the non-initiated. How to describe what is happening. Paul Groth started, followed by Kristi Holmes. I gave it a try, using a bit of radio commentator flair, and focusing on the emotion (rivalry, tension, opportunity) in the situation. I finished with a flourish "and this game is over!" People responded enthusiastically. The moment was captured in the cartoon graphic produced for the conference. I spoke with the artists – who knew little about baseball, but were enthusiastic about my short adlib.

Panel with Pinker, Hidalgo, Nicholson

John Brownstein, Boston's Children Hospital – HealthMap

Bastian Greshake, http://opensnp.org

Melissa Haendel, OHSU, Phenopackets

Erick Turner, OHSU – research integrity. excellent talk on p-hacking and other techniques for gaming statistical significance. I spoke with Erick after his talk and will follow up regarding a video from the Nova series – "Do Scientists Cheat."

Robin Rice, Edinburgh – Overcoming Obstacles to Sharing Data about human subjects

Erick Jones, Inspire http://inspire.com

Poster session – so many posters. Very little time to see them. Space was very crowded.

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Plenary Session

Cassidy Sugimoto, Indiana University

Laura Foster, Indiana University – sharing research regarding indigenous people, South Africa

Dora Ann Lange Canhos – Brazil's virtual herbarium

Juan Pablo Alperin – Simon Fraser University

Workgroup presentations – five minutes from each workgroup. Several of the workgroups are very relevant to VIVO: Attribution workgroup created the controlled vocabulary used in OpenVIVO. Data Citation workgroup developing standards. Software citation workgroup developing standards.

Lunch and Poster session. Presented OpenVIVO. Here's the poster. https://figshare.com/articles/OpenVIVO_A_VIVO_anyone_can_join/3175072

Innovation challenge.

Bianca Kramer – results of world-wide survey on scholarly communication tool usage and research workflows. 65% of researchers using ResearchGate

Maryann Martone – defining the Scholarly Commons.

Phil Bourne – summary of the conference

Comments

Very active, lively group. Many workgroups. Unusual conference format – lots of plenary, lots of "important" people talking. Not a lot of interaction. Speakers were entertaining.

The findings regarding ResearchGate are intriguing. Faculty have "escaped" to the walled garden of ResearchGate. No data sharing, no institutional visibility. Closed social network. But the ability to share their work without regard to copyright or copyright violation – people get to read papers on ResearchGate without subscriptions or libraries. Just like the 1970s – contact the author and get a copy of the paper.

Force11 workgroups duplicate work being done elsewhere. The scholarly Commons idea is similar to SHARE/OSF. The citation workgroups are very similar to work being done by research library workgroups.

The focus on "scholarly communications" is both intriguing and odd. It opens the conversation far beyond the scholarly paper – recall the group was founded as "Beyond the PDF" and rebranded as Force11 following a 2011 workshop at Dagstuhl. The community is avante-garde technical, but not very practical-technical. Unlikely that much of this innovation will see practical implementation in software used by researchers. But as an idea generation group, Force11 appears to be quite successful.