Data Information Literacy

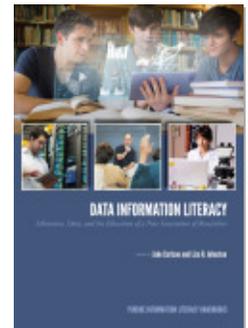Carlson, Jake , Johnston, Lisa

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FOREWORD

This book is the second in the Purdue Information Literacy Handbooks series. The book fulfills the purpose of the series, which is to promote evidence-based practice in teaching information literacy competencies through the lens of different academic disciplines. Information literacy implies the ability to find, manage, and use information in any format, and editors Carlson and Johnston apply it to the format of raw data. They coined the term *data information literacy* as an application of information literacy in the context of research.

Since much data is accessible on the Web now and federal agencies are encouraging reuse of data, rather than re-creating data sets, librarians have embraced the opportunity to apply the organization and management principles of library and information science to data.

Data Information Literacy: Librarians, Data, and the Education of a New Generation of Researchers is a timely work based on research funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Carlson and Johnston included librarians who worked with different scientific disciplines in the Data Information Literacy (DIL) project to write for this publication. Through interviews, the voices of faculty and graduate students revealed the need for a more effective way to learn DIL competencies and integrate them into their practice. The DIL project revealed specific skill gaps that graduate students in the sciences and engineering have related to managing, publishing, and preserving data sets for research. Librarians developed and assessed tailored educational strategies for addressing these gaps in five settings.

Carlson and Johnston make a strong case for the role of librarians in teaching graduate students to manage, publish, and preserve data. They and the chapter authors give advice based on their experience for academic librarians to establish DIL programs at their institutions.

This handbook will have value for librarians and library administrators in colleges and universities in which students participate in faculty research projects. With it, they can develop and implement plans to address an important, unmet educational need. Although

this book focuses on some of the science and engineering disciplines, those in the humanities and social sciences may be able to apply the methods used for identifying and addressing educational issues in their areas. This book will support library administrators who want their libraries to participate in the educational and research mission of their institutions. It will give practitioners guidance for developing such an effort.

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