

Finding your niche: Exploring the data ecosystem as an instruction librarian

Kelly Grossmann Getz, MS Information, MS Bioinformatics
Assistant Professor, STEM Librarian
Eastern Michigan University
kgrossm3@emich.edu
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“The accidental data
librarian” - Cindy Severt,
IASSIST, 2005



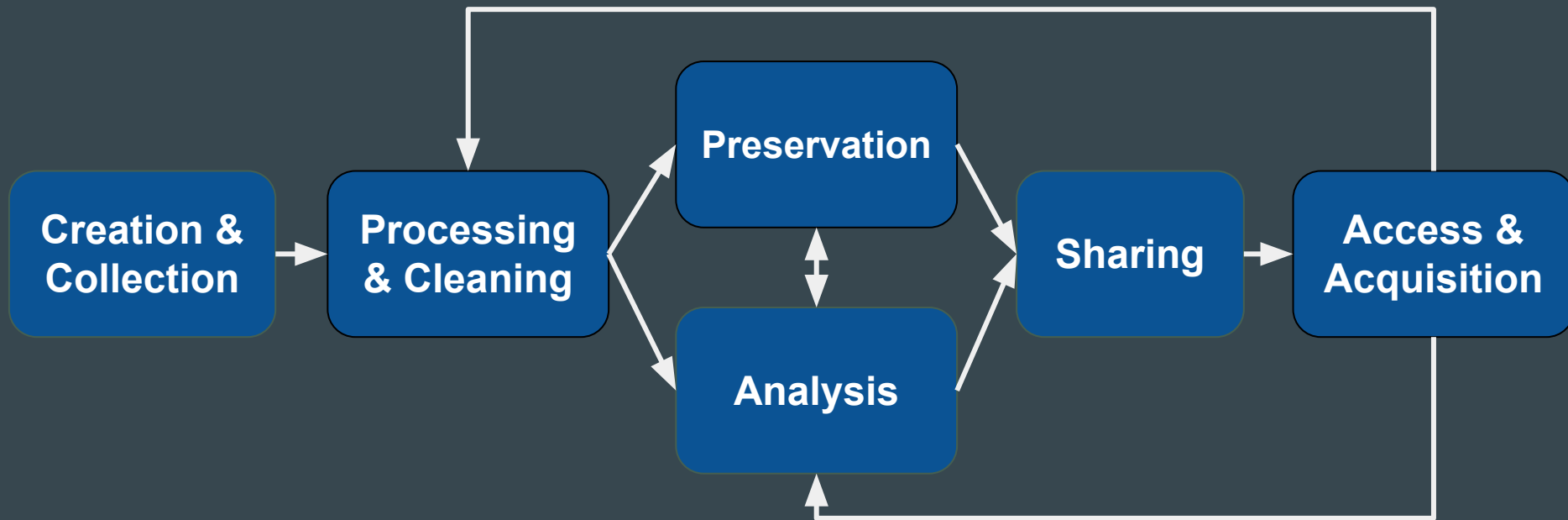
The accidental data
instruction librarian



Photo used with permission from: *lilothehusky/Instagram*

Fitting in In the Research Data Ecosystem

Data Lifecycle

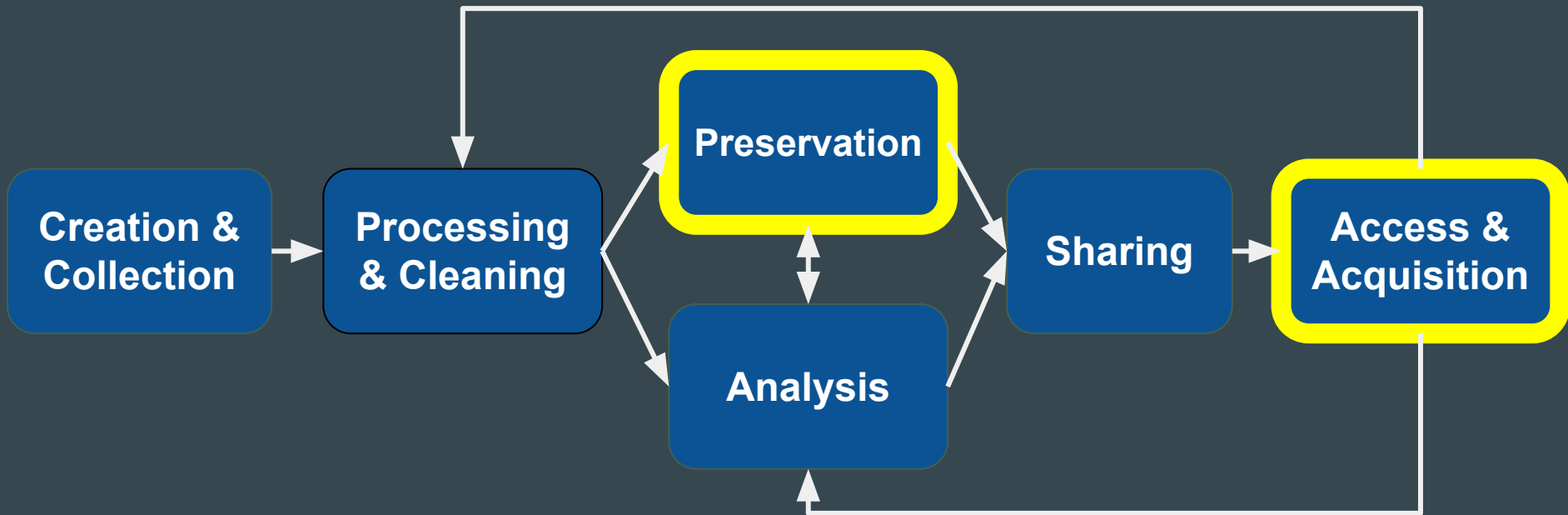


Inspired by and adapted from:

https://www2.usgs.gov/core_science_systems/access/summer_2013/article-12.html

Librarian assistance

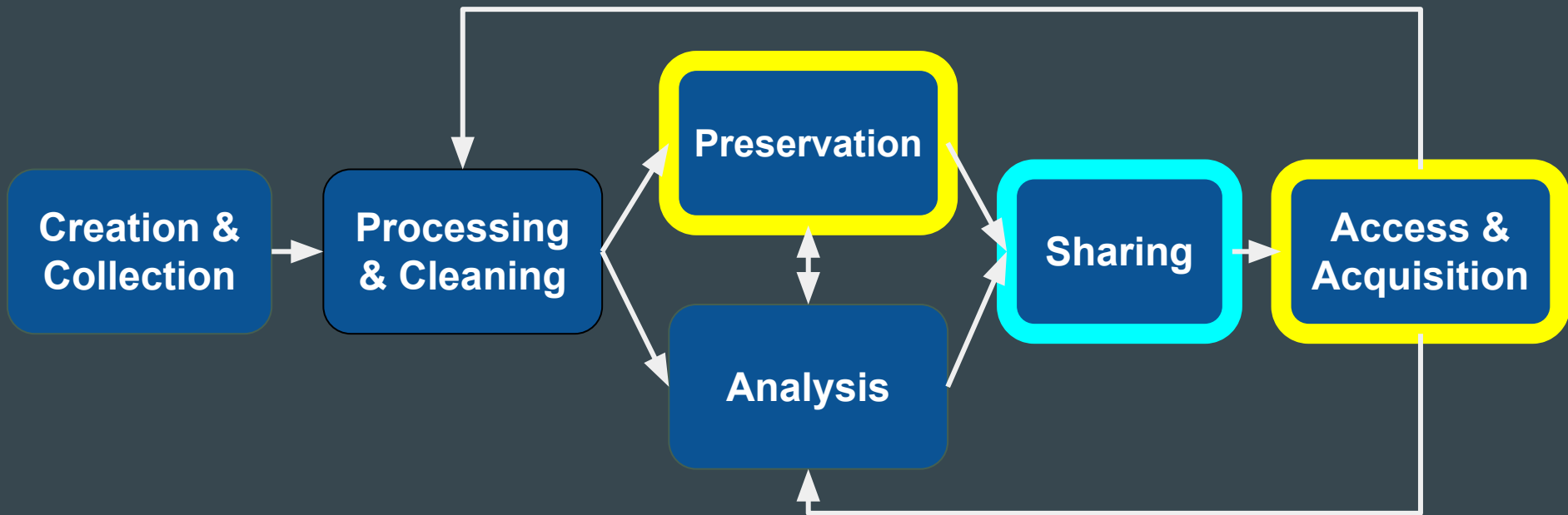
Librarians as stewards



Librarian assistance

Librarians as stewards

Librarians as facilitators

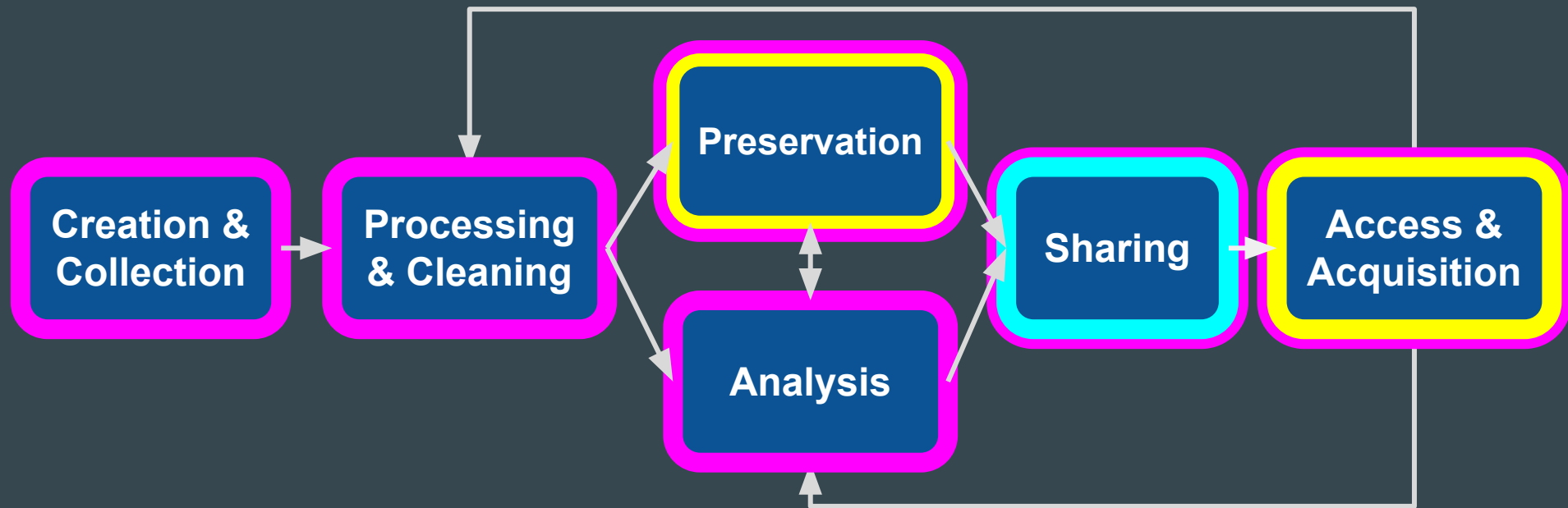


Librarian assistance

Librarians as stewards

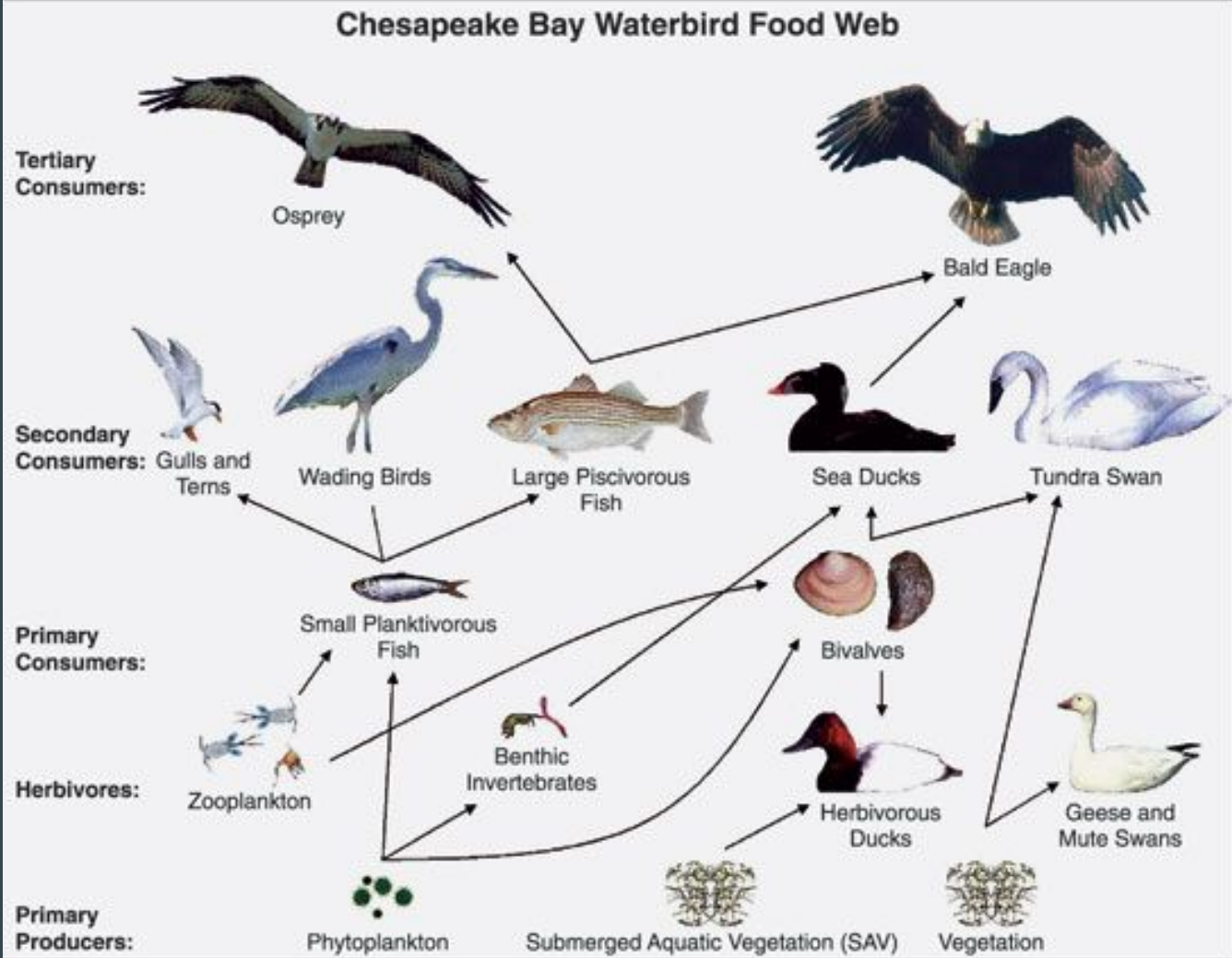
Librarians as facilitators

Librarians as educators



Food Web

Demonstrate producers and consumers in an ecosystem



Research Data Ecosystem

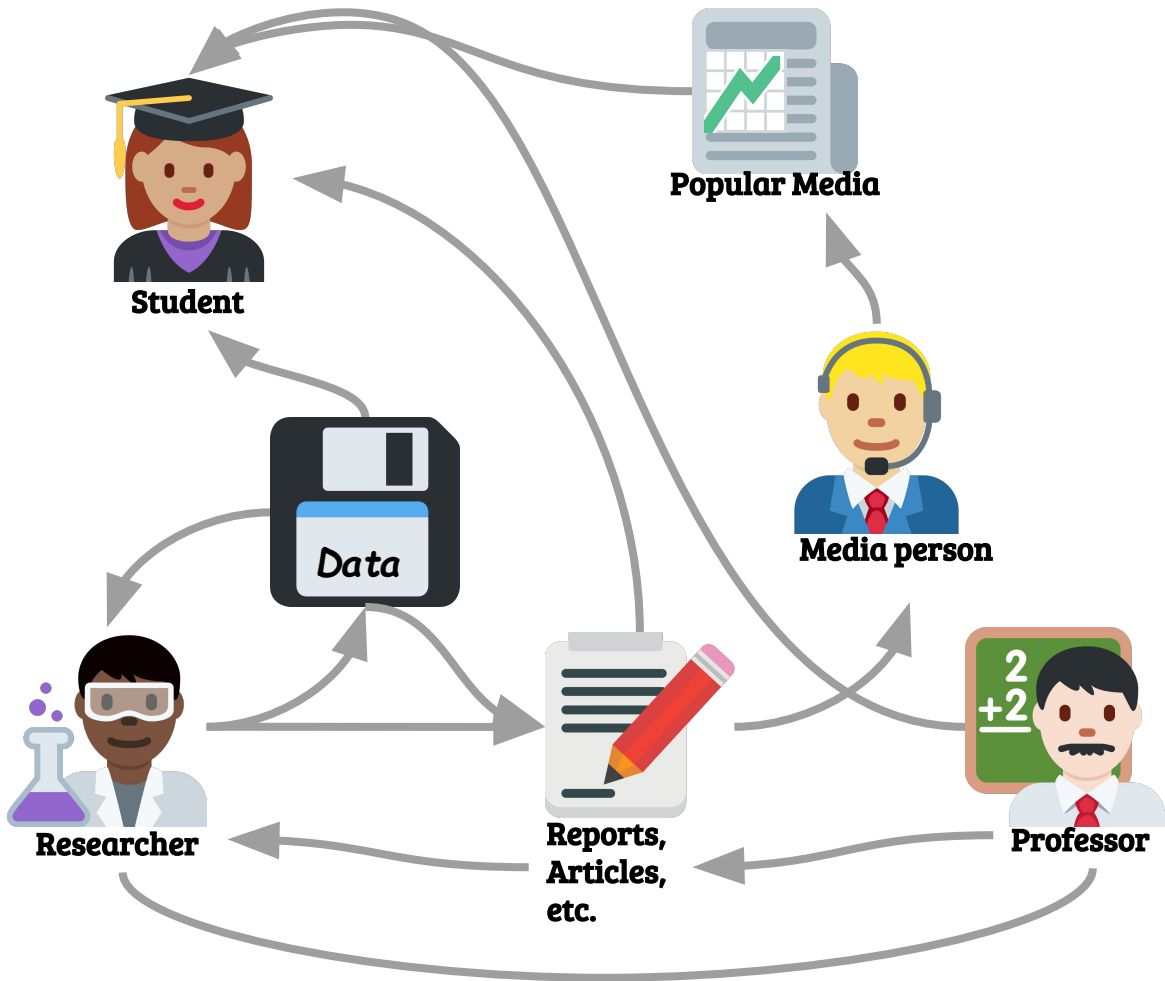
Researchers produce data

Researchers analyze
others' data & their own

Students learn to analyze

Students consume media

Students read articles



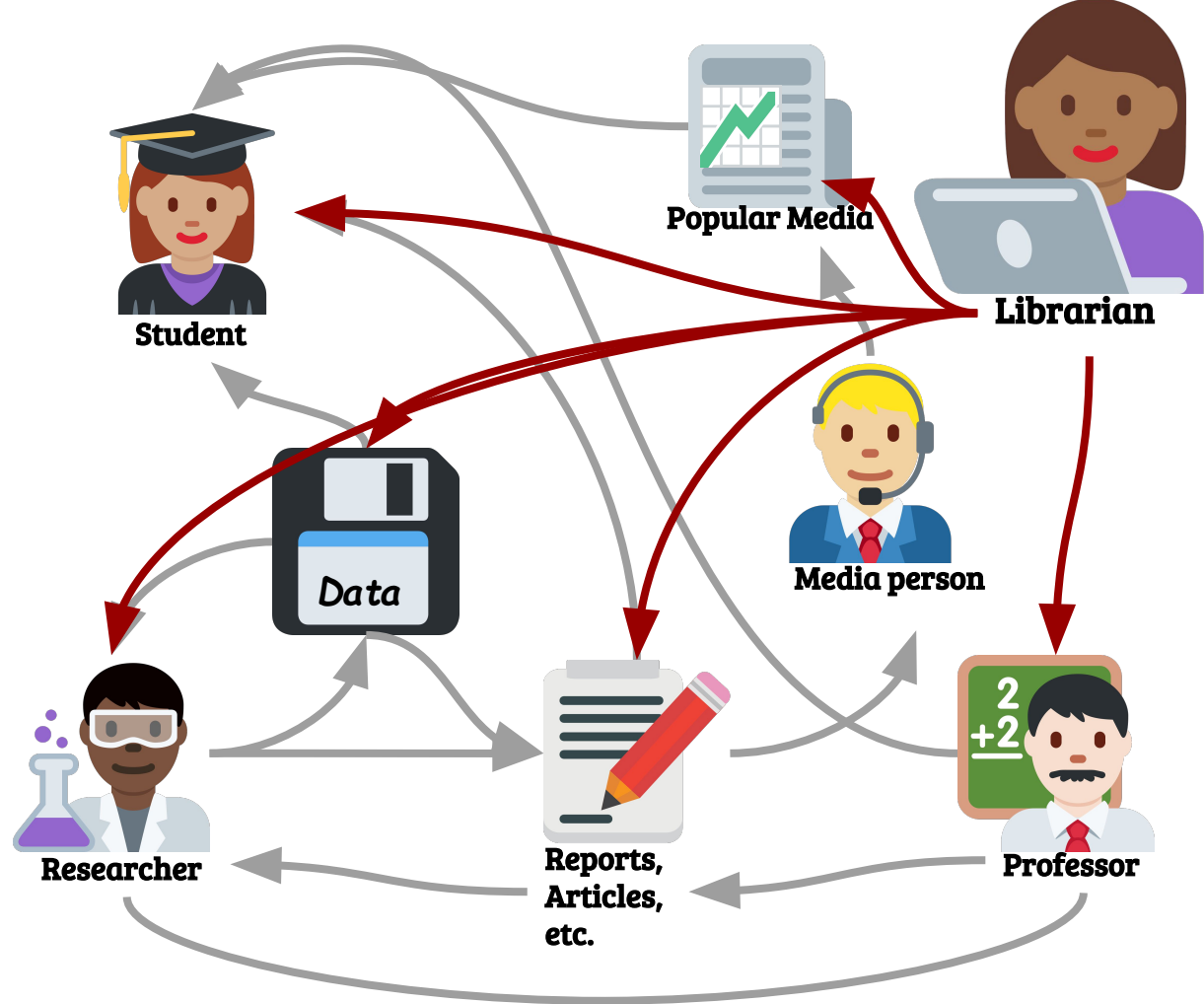
Research Data Ecosystem

Librarians help access data

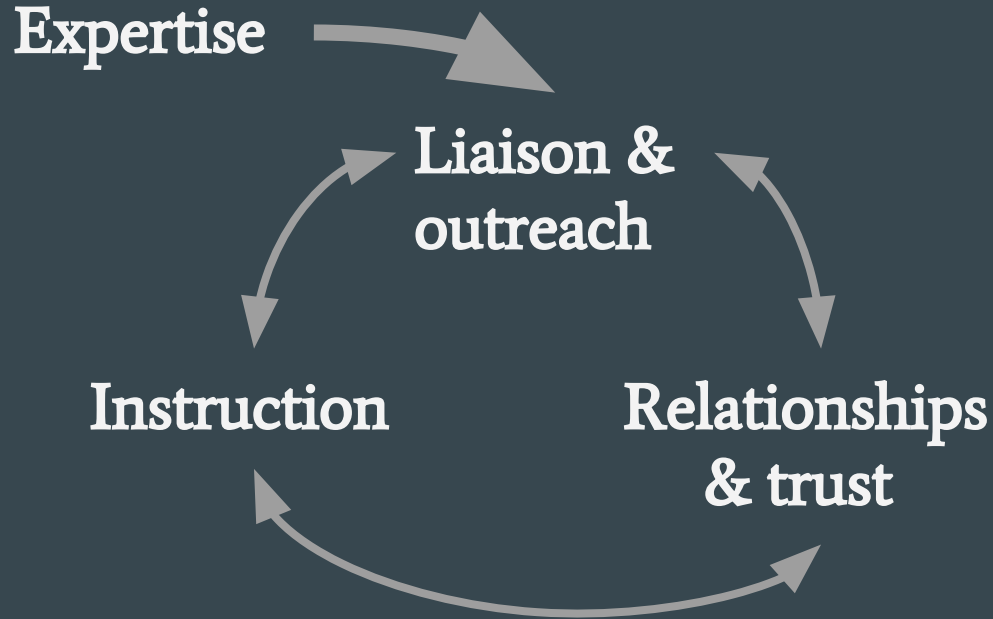
Librarians help professors store & describe data

Librarians teach professors about data

Librarians teach students about access, analysis, and evaluation



Expertise is our way into the “circle of trust”



**Different types of users have
different needs**

The roles of the user



Consumers



Analyzers



Generators

Data Users as Primary, Secondary, and Tert. Consumers

Who are they?

Everyone! People who view and interact with data visualization and representations on an everyday basis either in popular media or academia

Researchers using others' published datasets

What do they need?

Help understanding and evaluating the information they are receiving.



Data Users as Analyzers

Who are they?

Individuals who analyze data, create statistics, and design visualizations of data.

Students in undergraduate laboratories;
Faculty who use large published datasets;
Graduate students creating GIS maps; Etc.

What do they need?

Space; Software; Information about analytical tools; clean datasets to work from!



Data Users as Data Generators

Who are they?

Individuals who collect original data

Undergraduate students doing research;
Graduate students doing original research;
University faculty & researchers; Etc.

What do they need?

Help with DMP; Education about clean
formatting ; Infrastructure for preservation;
Assistance with metadata creation



Data Needs differ in Different Disciplines



Sciences



Social Sciences



Business

Sciences

Types of data used:

- Big quantitative data sets (geospatial, genomic, etc.)
- Protected or private data (GWAS, etc.)
- Student lab data
- Images & records for natural history

Needs:

- Help locating, accessing, storing, and sharing big quantitative data
- Software for analyzing & visualizing data
- DMP assistance



Social Sciences

Types of data used:

- Census data
- Geospatial data
- Interview results
- Survey results

Needs:

- Help storing confidential data
- Help locating, accessing, storing, and sharing big population data
- Software for analyzing qualitative data
- Software for maps
- DMP assistance



Business

Types of data used:

- Market research
- Statistics
- Qualitative research from customers
- Industry data

Needs:

- Assistance locating and acquiring pricey data
- Help evaluating published reports



Activity: Map user needs to your skills

Complete some of the table from the handout.

User	How does the user interact with data?	What is the user's role? (Consumer/ Generator/ Analyzer)	What does the user need?	What is the librarian's role? (Steward/ Facilitator/ Educator)	How can I help? (Know how/ Can learn/ Will refer)
Undergraduate Students	<i>Read news media about climate change</i>	<i>Consumer</i>	<i>Strategies to evaluate data centric arguments and images</i>	<i>Educator</i>	<i>I know how to do this.</i>
Researchers	<i>Collect and publish geospatial data for ecological study</i>	<i>Generator</i>	<i>Help constructing metadata to make data findable. A place to store a sizable dataset.</i>	<i>Facilitator</i>	<i>I know how to help construct metadata; Will refer to scholarly comm librarian for storage</i>

Align your skills to users' needs

- Talk to faculty to identify gaps in knowledge and needs



Expand and adapt

- Search syllabi for data instruction opportunities



Example Lesson Plans & Activities



Assistance

More than
\$2.8 billion
of PRM funding was
devoted to humanitarian
assistance overseas.

The United States has welcomed more than **3.3 million** refugees for resettlement since 1975.

That's more than ten times the population of Pittsburgh!

What kind of help does our funding provide?

Shelter and Education



Our funding supports education programs to ensure that displaced and refugee children are able to learn, and helps provide much-needed shelter for those who have fled their homes.

Food & Water



Thanks to U.S. assistance, millions of refugees and internally displaced people receive life-saving food and clean water.

Protection



The United States is a leader in protecting the rights of refugees and displaced people overseas, and in seeking to protect refugees from physical harm.



Resettlement

The U.S. has always been a world leader in the resettlement of refugees. The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program gives the world's most vulnerable refugees a safe new beginning, far from violence and persecution.

Where does our assistance go?

These five organizations received the majority of PRM's overseas humanitarian assistance, providing life-saving care and services for vulnerable people around the world.



Sample Lesson for Students as Tertiary Consumer:

Evaluating Infographics

<https://works.bepress.com/dana-statton/13/>

<https://www.state.gov/j/prm/about/265946.htm>



Evaluating Infographics [Students as Tertiary Consumers]

Prep level: Moderate

Time: About 2 hours

Audience: 1st and 2nd year undergraduates

Materials: Examples of infographics with varying reliability

Objectives: *Student will:*

- Identify data visualizations
- Evaluate the reliability of the visualizations
- Discuss the author's motives and meaning
- Locate the original sources of data

Activity: Discuss examples of misleading data visualizations and have students work in groups to evaluate published infographics using the CRAAP test

For a full course based on infographics and information literacy, visit :

<https://works.bepress.com/dana-statton/13/>



**Sample Lesson for
Students as
Analyzers:**

**Water Resource
Datathon**

<https://guides.emich.edu/datathon>



Water Resource Datathon [Students as Analyzers]

Prep level: High

Time: ~6 hours of contact time

Audience: Students, Community members, etc.

Materials: Computers with internet; local water data Snacks; Prizes

Objectives: *Student will:*

- Construct research questions based on available data
- Present analyses and questions for further research

Activity: Allow groups of 2-4 students to explore datasets and create research questions. Prepare & provide brief demonstrations of technological tools for analysis & visualizations (spreadsheet functions, map software, etc.). Have students present brief 5-10 minute presentations based on their research questions and analyses. Judge based on rubric.

For more information visit :

<https://guides.emich.edu/datathon>

time	<u>n.risk</u>	<u>n.event</u>	survival	<u>std.err</u>	lower 95% CI	upper 95% CI
5	23	2	0.913	0.0588	0.8049	1
8	21	2	0.8261	0.079	0.6848	0.996
9	19	1	0.7826	0.086	0.631	0.971
12	18	1	0.7391	0.0916	0.5798	0.942
13	17	1	0.6957	0.0959	0.5309	0.912
18	14	1	0.646	0.1011	0.4753	0.878
23	13	2	0.5466	0.1073	0.3721	0.803
27	11	1	0.4969	0.1084	0.324	0.762
30	9	1	0.4417	0.1095	0.2717	0.718
31	8	1	0.3865	0.1089	0.2225	0.671
33	7	1	0.3313	0.1064	0.1765	0.622
34	6	1	0.2761	0.102	0.1338	0.569
43	5	1	0.2208	0.0954	0.0947	0.515
45	4	1	0.1656	0.086	0.0598	0.458
48	2	1	0.0828	0.0727	0.0148	0.462
30	9	1	0.4417	0.1095	0.2717	0.718
31	8	1	0.3865	0.1089	0.2225	0.671
33	7	1	0.3313	0.1064	0.1765	0.622
34	6	1	0.2761	0.102	0.1338	0.569
43	5	1	0.2208	0.0954	0.0947	0.515
45	4	1	0.1656	0.086	0.0598	0.458
48	2	1	0.0828	0.0727	0.0148	0.462

Lesson for Students as Generators: Organizing Data



Sharing Student Researcher Data [Students as Generators]

Prep level: Low

Time: ~2 hours of lab time

Audience: REU Students (or other student researchers)

Materials: Computer lab & data from student research

Objectives: Student will:

- Identify how their data may be used in future research
- Organize their data
- Begin authoring metadata

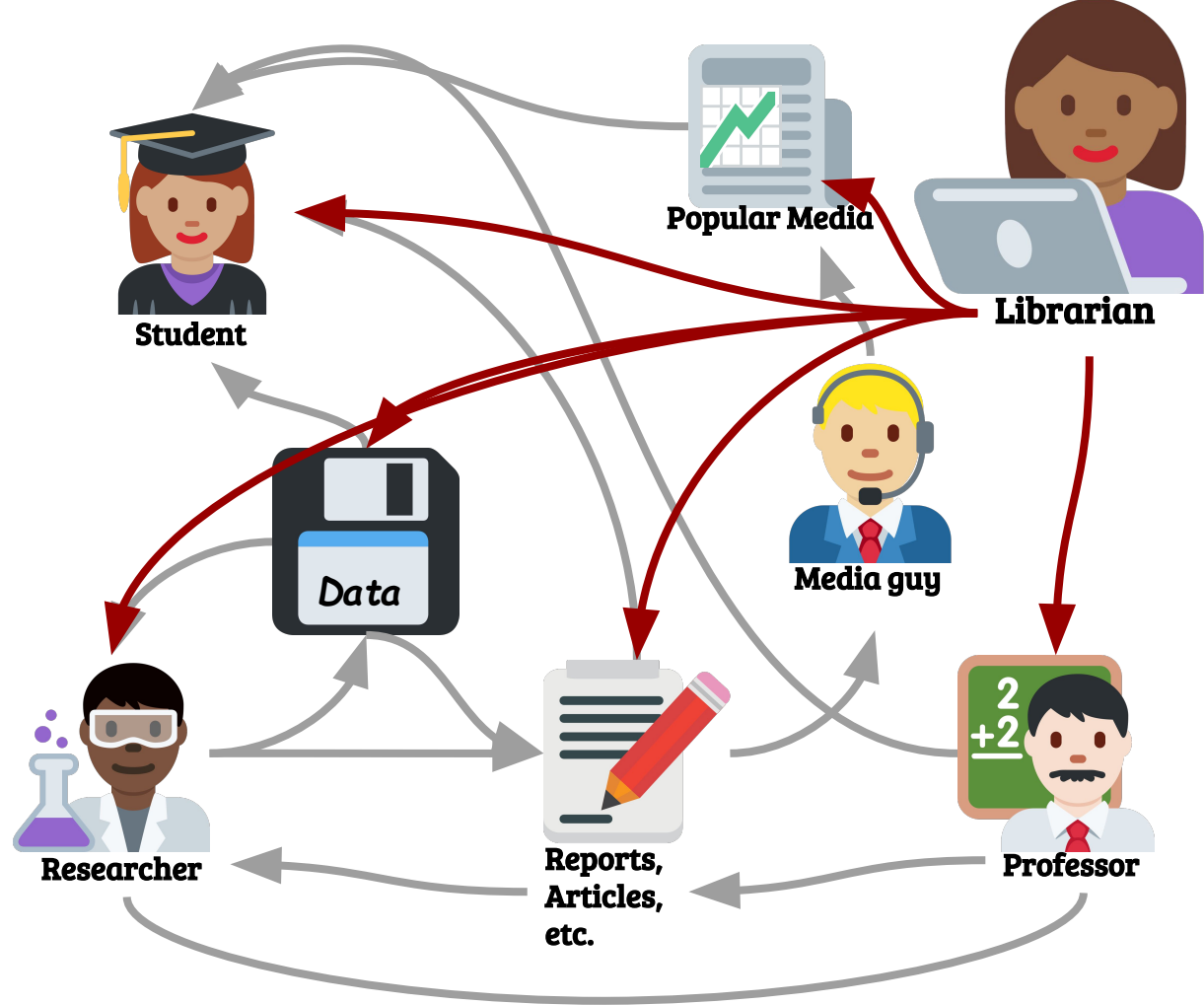
Activity: Hold an open discussion to explore why data sharing is important. Provide an example of a publicly available dataset and metadata. Workshop with students to evaluate how their data tables are set up and the content of their field names. Give students actual forms for submitting data set metadata in an institutional repository.

Pair-Share

- What type of student do you usually work with-- Consumers, Generators, or Analyzers?
- How could you adapt the sample activities to fit with your subject area disciplines?
- How could you adapt the sample lessons to suit additional instructional constraints (time, technology, etc.)?
- What other data literacy lessons do you perform in your classes?

Research Data Ecosystem

Hopefully, this has helped you identify some strategies to figure out where you fit in the research data environment!



Thank you!

—

Remaining questions or discussion?

Kelly Grossmann Getz

kgrossm3@emich.edu

Further Reading

Rice, R., & Southall, J. (2016). *The Data Librarian's Handbook*. London: Facet Publishing. Retrieved from

<http://ezproxy.emich.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1454580&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

Anderson, D. E. (2016) Top five tips for finding new roles in your library. In Anderson, D. E., & Pun, R. (ed) *Career transitions for librarians: Proven strategies for moving to another type of library*.

Slide citations

Slide 3: Severt, Cinty. (2005) “Discovering a Profession: The accidental data librarian.” Presentation.

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Slides 4-7:

Faundeen, J. L., (2013) “The USGS Science Data Lifecycle Model” *Access Summer 2013*. 16(1).

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Brodsky, M., Getz, K. (2018) “Diving into the Data Literacy Deep End” *Library Instruction West*. Presentation.

Slide 25-26

Thomson, D. S. “Infographics and visual literacy: Teaching evaluative criteria to increase critical thinking.”

Library Instruction West. Presentation.

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[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_Reporter_Watches_Secretary_Kerry_Deliver_Remarks_on_His_Cellphone_\(29864739305\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_Reporter_Watches_Secretary_Kerry_Deliver_Remarks_on_His_Cellphone_(29864739305).jpg)

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[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Plant_ecologist_Carl_Roland_collects_soil_temperature_and_moisture_data_while_performing_soil_sampling_protocol_in_Denali_NP_\(8446139444\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Plant_ecologist_Carl_Roland_collects_soil_temperature_and_moisture_data_while_performing_soil_sampling_protocol_in_Denali_NP_(8446139444).jpg)

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Slide 25: U.S. Department of State. “U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration 2016 Year in Review.” Public domain. Changes made: resized.

Slide 27: Anonymous creator. “Lead.” From the Water Resource Datathon. 2018.

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https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Life_table_for_the_aml_data.png