VT University Libraries has a new Center for Digital Research and Scholarship (CDRS) that offers library-managed tools and services to address needs related to locally-produced digital research data and scholarship to faculty and students. Dean Tyler Walters and Associate Dean for Research and Informatics Julie Speer (Director of CDRS) have been meeting with other deans on campus to talk about services CDRS can offer.

There are 5 areas that CDRS will focus on:

1. Informatics

CDRS will partner with researchers from any discipline on technology development projects that apply information science principles (data collection, organization, management, preservation, dissemination, integration, visualization) to solve academic problems. Initiatives are planned in digital humanities and e-science.

2. Digital Services

CDRS will offer services to address content, information, data management and publishing needs complementary to what some departments already have. This includes the institutional repository VTechWorks. Other services will include web-based tools to publish eJournals and eConference proceedings, the Open Access (OA) subvention fund to support VT authors publishing in OA journals, virtual communities (Drupal-based spaces for researchers, especially those working on multi-institution grants, to interact and collaborate.) Event capture services (for distinguished speaker series, etc, but not major events already covered by University Relations) will also be offered.

3. Consulting

CDRS will provide guidance on author/creator rights, copyright, creating data management plans, implementing plans and digital curation.

4. Training

CDRS will offer training on resources, tools, and services that support the lifecycle of digital datasets and scholarship. As an example, in January, VT University Libraries partnered with UVA to offer a data management “bootcamp” for graduate students.

5. Outreach

CDRS will raise awareness of open access publishing and the benefits of sharing and preserving digital research and scholarship. A week of OA related programs and workshops is currently being planned to take place in October 2013.