DOE National Laboratory Libraries Coalition (NLLC)

2019 Annual Meeting

Brookhaven National Laboratory

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SITE REPORT FOR: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

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Budget and staffing changes –

Budget: absorbed a flat-rate budget (~3% labor cut) and 3% non-labor budget cut.

Staffing: Backfilled our digital collection management position after a retirement.

Organizational changes – No organizational changes that involved the library in the past year.

Current initiatives – We are creating a physical location for collaboration in scholarly publishing, aptly named the PubCenter. Our library collection will remain entirely digital, but we will again have a physical presence on the main campus. The new space is planned to open this fiscal year.

Challenges – Inclement weather caused delays to the modifications planned in our new PubCenter space which has resulted in approximately half of the team being relocated into the new space while the rest of us are not scheduled to move until May. We will then have the challenge of operating a physical location, scheduling to accommodate visits from researchers, collaborating on projects in person (using electronic resources).

Continued focus on flat rates, which result in budget cuts, continues to squeeze the resources we can offer to our researchers, all while we try to grow our services. There is increased pressure to cut costs to overhead funding which will eventually impact our chargeback model (we will have to start charging back to the projects more).

Future initiatives – None other than those described above.

Trends – Researchers are accustomed to a "Google and Amazon" level of service and that expectation bleeds into the workplace. Meanwhile, our lab director wants costs cut and others to "expect longer service turnaround" from support orgs such as the library. The expectations clearly do not align. Open Access debates and academia behavior—dropping major subscriptions—has lab leadership asking why we continue to subscribe.