Examining Disciplinary Cooperation in Grant-Funded Human Health Research: A Text Mining Approach

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ABSTRACT

Approaches to scientific research involving cooperation between scientists from multiple disciplines are becoming increasingly recognized as vital for addressing large scale, complex scientific challenges in a global environment (see Fiore, 2008; Sharp, Jacks, & Hockfield, 2016). Information professionals are well-equipped to play an expanding role in these collaborations (Allard & Pollock, 2018) and understanding patterns of adoption of cross-disciplinary approaches as well as funding agency support for disciplinary cooperation can help them in identifying emerging research areas as well as potential barriers to such research.

This poster presents preliminary results from a study conducted to explore the utility of employing text mining techniques to examine grant data in order to identify trends in disciplinary cooperation in the area of human health. Quantitative analysis was conducted on the full text of publicly available grant abstracts from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to help identify potential areas of emerging cross-disciplinary research and understand the evolving vocabulary scientists use when describing research involving multiple disciplines in applications for funding. Methods, challenges, and next steps are discussed.

REFERENCES

