Jen Ferguson
hellojenf@gmail.com

Education

Master of Science in Library and Information Science • Syracuse University
Digital Libraries concentration

Master of Science in Biology • Boston College
Thesis: "Analysis of *S. pombe* mitochondrial DNA by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis"

Bachelor of Science • Western Michigan University
Biological Sciences major with Chemistry minor

Experience: Libraries

Northeastern University Libraries, Research Data Services

Head, Research Data Services: 2019-present.
Research Data Management Librarian: 2016-2019.

I lead the library's Research Data Services group, directly supervising staff members with expertise in data management, data analysis, data visualization, coding, text analysis, and GIS. In my time as department head, the group has grown from 3 staff members to a team of 6 staff plus 2 student positions. We work with partners inside and outside the library to support data-intensive teaching and research.

I advise on data management tools, standards, documentation, and organizational techniques to support data discoverability, reuse, and preservation. I assist researchers preparing data management and sharing plans for grant applications and promote potential solutions for storage and preservation of research data upon project completion.

I partnered with faculty colleagues in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities to plan and host Data Rescue Boston at Snell Library. This event attracted nearly 100 attendees and was covered by local media. Our collaboration led to further joint efforts with these faculty members to raise awareness about endangered data.

Northeastern University Libraries, Research & Instruction

Assistant Head, Research & Instruction, Science and Data Services: 2012-2016.
Data Services Librarian: 2011-2012.

I led the team of science, engineering, technology, health sciences, and math liaisons, directly supervising three librarians. I also served as the liaison to the biology department. Other responsibilities included instruction, research assistance, and collection development and promotion.

I co-led the libraries' launch of the Primo discovery service. I worked with Ex Libris and with library colleagues across many departments to implement Primo, optimize search results, generate documentation, and communicate with users inside and outside the library.

Brandeis University Library & Technology Services
Research & Instruction Liaison: 2008-2011.

I served as liaison to all science departments in support of a broad range of teaching and research activities. My responsibilities included instruction, research assistance, collections promotion and management, and support & testing of the university's Moodle-based LMS.

I initiated a new program to support senior students doing research in biology, neurobiology, and chemistry. I collaborated with science faculty to provide instruction and assistance relevant to students writing and defending senior honors theses.

I initiated and led a project that generated QR codes to promote and provide seamless access to library resources, including e-books, streaming media, databases, archival materials, and repository holdings. Codes were created in a way that allowed simple assessment via usage tracking.

Experience: Science

Wellesley College Department of Biological Sciences
Research Assistant: 2006-2008.

I conducted laboratory research into the cell cycle of the yeast *S. cerevisiae*. I helped train student researchers and shared responsibility for maintaining lab records including the FileMaker database of yeast strains and characteristics.

MIT Department of Biology
Technical Assistant: 1998-2006.
Technical Instructor: 1998.

I provided technical support and instruction for 7.02, a very large (175-200 students/year) biology lab course. I collaborated with colleagues to develop the course curriculum, teach, manage logistics, supervise undergraduate and graduate student workers, and design and troubleshoot experiments in genetics, cell biology, protein biochemistry, and developmental biology.

Consulting & independent projects

Capstone Mentor, Data Services Continuing Professional Education • 2022

Community Expert, Fundamentals of Health Sciences Research Data Management online course • NNLM National Center for Data Services, 2022

Lead instructor, Launching Data Services unit, RDMLA • 2018-2019

Co-teacher, Data Curation & Documentation Module, Biomedical and Health Research Data Management for Librarians online course • NNLM Training Office, 2018

Lecturer, Research Data Management MOOC • UMass Medical Library, 2015-2016

Research Data Management Consultant • MCPHS University, 2015

Data Curator • Harvard School of Public Health, Bioinformatics Core, 2010-2011

Subject Matter Expert • Human anatomy & physiology online course, 2010

Platforms & tools

Research data management: DMPTool, COEUS, Open Science Framework, REDCap
Data visualization: Tableau, ArcGIS StoryMaps
Data science and manipulation: Python, Jupyter Notebooks, text analysis
Qualitative data analysis: NVivo
Project management and documentation: GitHub, Trello, Podio
Online learning platforms and object creation: Canvas, Moodle, GitHub Pages, WordPress
Digital libraries/repositories: Drupal, Grouper, Fedora
Databases & library platforms: Ex Libris Primo, Springshare, ICPSR, Web of Knowledge, PubMed
Bioinformatics resources: GEO, Entrez, OMIM, BLAST

Service: Professional

Membership Committee, RDAP, 2026-present
Member, Open Datum working group, 2026-present
IASSIST abstract reviewer, 2025-present
Reviewer, Journal of eScience Librarianship, 2012-present
Advisory board member, Constellate and ProQuest TDM Studio, 2024-2026
Sponsorship Committee, RDAP Summit, 2018-2021
Program lead, lightning talks, RDAP Summit, 2018
Member, OCLC Research Data Management Interest Group, 2018
Co-chair, New England e-Science Portal Editorial Board, 2013-2016
Board member & editor, New England e-Science Portal, 2010-2013
Current member: RDAP Association, ACRL/NE, and IASSIST
Past member, Boston Library Consortium CoIs: Scholarly Research & Chemistry
Past member: ACRL, SLA and ALA/MLA

Service: Northeastern University

Co-chair, Funded Research Community of Practice, 2025-present
Chair, Summer Boost Committee, 2023
Co-chair, Primo Oversight Group, 2012-2013 and 2017-2022
Co-chair, Resource Access & Discovery group, 2013-2016
Member, Web Governance Committee, 2025-present
Member, Global Campus Services Committee, 2020-present
Member, Tableau Group, 2019-2020
Member, Curriculum Committee, 2016-2018
Member, Faculty Onboarding Working Group, 2017
Member, search committees for the following positions:

- Dean, University Libraries and Vice Provost for Information Collaboration
- Associate Dean, Research and Learning Services
- Associate Director, Digital Scholarship Group

Digital Scholarship cluster hire: Developer, Data Engineer, & Semantic Data Specialist
STEM and health sciences librarians (6 positions)
Senior Web Developer

Selected presentations, publications, and other works*

Ferguson, J. and O'Donnell, M. (2026). Dataset Bingo! Teaching data management best practices through exploration of shared datasets. Poster to be presented at the 2026 RDAP Summit.

Link Cilfone, A., and Ferguson, J. (2026). Investigating and addressing the needs of research support staff. *Journal of eScience Librarianship* 15 (1): e1122. https://doi.org/10.7191/jeslib.1122

Link Cilfone, A., and Ferguson, J. (2026). Investigating and addressing the needs of research support staff. [De-identified data set]. Available from https://hdl.handle.net/2047/D20752529

Wink, I., O'Donnell, M., and Ferguson, J. (2025). Dataset Bingo! Teaching data management best practices through exploration of shared datasets. Workshop presented at Midwest Data Librarian Symposium. Materials available from https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17297233

O'Donnell, M., Ferguson, J., and Wink, I. *(in process)*. Dataset Bingo! Teaching data management best practices through exploration of shared datasets. Workshop to be presented at Midwest Data Librarian Symposium, October 2025.

Link Cilfone, A., and Ferguson, J. (2025). Investigating and addressing the needs of research support staff. Poster presentation at the Empirical Studies in Libraries Summit.

Link Cilfone, A., and Ferguson, J. (2025). Investigating and addressing the needs of research support staff. Presentation at the 2025 RDAP Summit.

Exner, N., et al. (2025). RDAP response to 2024-12 NSF PAPPG draft.

Everritt, L., Ferguson, J., and Simpson, E. (2024). TIFF Data Curation Primer. https://hdl.handle.net/11299/264055

Beales, R.D., Ferguson, J., Kirchhoff, A., Lowe, D., and Suomela, T. (2024). Text analysis, data requests, and the academic library. Presentation at IASSIST and CARTO 2024, Halifax, NS.

Ferguson, J. (2024). Opportunities lost: Tracking denied service requests to advocate for more resources. Poster presentation at the NERCOMP Annual Conference, Providence, RI.

Chinn, L., Ferguson, J., Jones, L., Marsolek, W., McCaffrey, D., and Sedlins, M. (2024). DEIA and data professionals. Panel presentation at the 2024 RDAP Summit.

Contaxis. N., et al. (2023). NNLM Data Repository Finder. https://www.nnlm.gov/finder

Beales, R.D., Ferguson, J., Field, N., and Kirchhoff, A. (2023). Text analysis and the academic library. Poster presented at the 2023 Charleston Conference.

Ferguson, J. (2023). Teaching text analysis and data science in the library. Charleston Conference Proceedings, 2022.

Ferguson, J. (2023). Launching data services. Guest lecture for Data Services Continuing Professional Education Fall 2023 cohort.

Ferguson, J. (2023). Opportunities lost: Tracking denied service requests to advocate for more resources. Poster presentation at the ACRL New England Annual Conference, Worcester, MA.

Ferguson, J. (2023). Data mining & delivery via API: Challenges & strategies for future collection development. "And They Were There – Reports of Meetings, 2022 Charleston Conference," *Against the Grain*, 35(3), 47.

Ferguson, J. (2023). Opportunities lost: Tracking denied service requests to advocate for more resources. Poster presentation at the 2023 RDAP Summit.

Ferguson, J., and Kirchhoff, A. (2022). Teaching data science and text analysis in the library. Presentation at 2022 Charleston Conference.

Ruediger, D., Ferguson, J., Bharti, N., Ivey, S., and Gorham, R.B. (2022). Data support services needs in the DIY era. Panel presentation at RDAP Summit 2022.

Ruediger, Dylan, et al. (2021). Big data infrastructure at the crossroads: Support needs and challenges for universities. Ithaka S+R.

Ferguson, J., Kryder, K., Macalino, J., and Unis, J. (2021). Big data and data science research at Northeastern University.

Davis, H., Ferguson, J., and Moore, J. (2021). Understanding data teaching and research support needs. Presentation at the NERCOMP Annual Conference.

Ferguson, J. (2020). IPI in action. Guest lecture for LIS-532S, Foundations of IPI practice. Simmons University, Boston, MA

Ferguson, J., and Walker, P. (2020). Steal this curriculum: resources for teaching & learning about digital privacy. Presentation at NEASIST's Annual Winter Conference, Boston, MA.

Bettinger, E., Ferguson, J., Patterson, B., Rowell, C.J., Walker, P., and Wildenhaus, K. (2019). CryptoParty: Strengthen your digital privacy toolkit. Workshop presented at the DLF Forum, Tampa, FL

Ferguson, J. and Morin, R. (2019). Unit 4: Launching Data Services. Research Data Management Librarian Academy.

Ferguson, J. (2019). Beyond the DMP: Research data management and other library -based support and services are referenced throughout grant proposals. Poster presented at the RDAP Summit, Coral Gables, FL.

Ferguson, J. (2019). What are they saying about us? References to library support & services in grant proposals. Empirical Librarians Conference, Richmond, VA.

Corbett, H., Ferguson, J., and Sweeney, S. (2018). Intel inside: Using researchers' data management plans to guide development of support services. NERCOMP Annual Conference, Providence, RI.

Corbett, H., and Ferguson, J. (2018). Citation analysis: How we did it, and what we'd do differently. Empirical Librarians Conference, Knoxville, TN.

Corbett, H., Ferguson, J., and Sweeney, S. (2017). Keeping up with perpetual motion: Research lifecycle support services in academic libraries. Presented by H. Corbett at FORCE 2017, Berlin, Germany.

Corbett, H. and Ferguson, J. (2017). Assessing return on investment in licensed e-resources through citation analysis. Poster presented at NERCOMP Annual Conference, Providence, RI.

Ferguson, J. and Rust, A. (2016). Do funding agency data policies conflict with text mining license terms? Poster presented at the University of Massachusetts and New England eScience Symposium, Worcester, MA.

Boissy, R., Ferguson, J., Morrow, J., and Rust, A. (2015). Text mining support: Are we there yet? Presentation at TERMS of Engagement: Managing Collections & Electronic Resources Lifecycles, ACRL/NEC ERMIG & CDIG, Cambridge, MA.

Ferguson, J. (2015, 2014, 2013). Research data management: resources and tools. Guest lecture for LIS-532G, Scientific Research Data Management. Simmons College, Boston, MA.

Ferguson, J. (2013). Module 2: Types, formats, and stages of data. In *New England Collaborative Data Management Curriculum*. UMass Medical School Lamar Soutter Library & Partners.

Ferguson, J. (2013). A spectrum of scale: support for data needs in the sciences and social sciences. Presentation at New Roles for Supporting Digital Scholarship in Academic Libraries - ACRL/NEC SCIG. Boston, MA.

Ferguson, J. (2013). Lurking in the lab: Analysis of data from molecular biology laboratory instruments. *Journal of eScience Librarianship*.

Ferguson, J. (2012). Lurking in the lab: Analysis of data from molecular biology laboratory instruments. Poster presented at the International Association for Social Science Information Services & Technology (IASSIST) 2012 Conference, Washington, DC.

Ferguson, J. and Woodrum, A. (2012). Quick, quantifiable QR codes. Presentation at Computers in Libraries, Washington, DC.

Ferguson, J. (2012). A tale of two projects: The hands-on of data curation. Presentation at Understanding E-Science: A Symposium for Medical Librarians, Houston, TX.

Ferguson, J. (2012). Description and annotation of biomedical data sets. *Journal of eScience Librarianship.*

Ferguson, J. (2011). A tale of two projects: The hands-on of data curation. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries, Denver, CO.

Ferguson, J. (2011). Description & annotation of biomedical experimental data sets: work in progress. Poster presented at the University of Massachusetts and New England e-Science Symposium, Shrewsbury, MA.

Ferguson, J. (2009). Better living through (animated) chemistry. Presentation at NERCOMP Science Librarians in an e-Science World, Southbridge, MA.

**Full list with links available here: https://sites.google.com/view/jasf/home*