Return on Investments in the Library Project
University of Pretoria

Presented by
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Research process

• Three legs:
  – Interviews with administrators (Vice-principal for Research & Director of Research)
  – Data
  – Survey
Interviews

• Buy-in from the Executive

• Interviews to “capture and articulate the administrator’s underlying drivers with regards to information resources and the process for securing grants for the institution”
Survey

• Ethics committee
• Sensitize the Deans
• Customize the survey
• Invitation
• Conduct the survey
Data required

- Regular headcount faculty
- Principal Investigator / Regular researchers
- Grant proposals
- Grants awarded
- Amount of grant income expended
- Total of grants expended
- Amount of total Library budget
- Amount of Library materials budget
- Number of articles published
Data fields explained

• Regular headcount faculty
  Permanent and temporary full-time and part-time academic staff

• Principal investigators
  The number of faculty (counted only once) who either submitted a grant proposal and / or received a grant during the year.

• Grant proposals
  Number of proposal submitted

• Grants awarded
  Number of successful grants
Data fields explained (continues)

- Amount of grant income expended
  - Amount of money an institution receives from external funding bodies
- Total number of grants expended
  - This reflects the number of times an institution “uses” the grant relative to the number of years that is active. E.g. a multi-year grant may be “used” in each year of its term
- Amount of total Library budget
  - Everything that the library "pays" for (including staff, benefits, IT infrastructure, facilities & maintenance, etc) should be counted
- Amount of Library materials budget
  - Include journals, books, databases, ILL
- Number of articles published
  - Include all peer reviewed articles, exclude conference proceedings
Challenges

• Clarify the definitions – ensure that apples are compared to apples
• The reason why data is collected give different results
• Identify the stakeholders
• Not all the data available from one entity on campus
• Difficult to identify where to collect which data from
• Not all the data readily available
• Not all the data available for 10 years
• Co-operation from faculty
• Internal processes
Lessons learned

• View of the Executive on the importance/value of the Library
• Identified problem areas
• Importance of data – careful
• Document contact people, problems, reasons for decisions
• Proving ROI is not an easy task – thankful for partnerships and international expertise
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