Collaboration & Recognition:

Authorship Credit Across Disciplines

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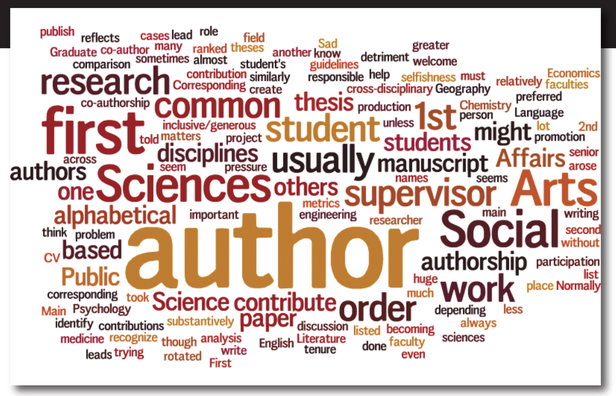
What contributions are considered sufficient to justify authorship credit? As universities show increasing interest in both interdisciplinary work & research metrics, the library is in a unique position to help researchers across disciplines navigate through this important area of scholarly communication.

METHODOLOGY:

- Online survey to 46 department chairs & directors from across Carleton University.
- Questions related to publication credit, authorship order, graduate student practices, affiliation credit, & interdisciplinary co-authorship



"Main researcher first; if 1st author is a student the supervisor is 2nd; others based on discussion and contributions". (Geography)

"Normally it is alphabetical. When it is not, it sometimes reflects the greater role of the first person listed. I do a lot of cross-disciplinary work, and with one co-author we rotated first place depending on who took the lead". (Economics)

"Corresponding author is the senior author. First is usually the student who did the research". (Chemistry)

"Graduate student names are ranked in order of contribution. 1st having done the most work". (Science)

"The pressure on faculty to publish for tenure & promotion seems to create a selfishness about authorship to the detriment of students. Sad". (Arts & Social Sciences)

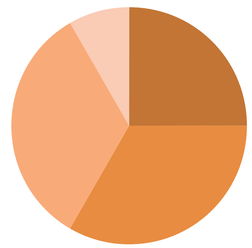
"Some of us list % of work in their CV; co-authorship is not common in X, but becoming more common and guidelines would be welcome". (Arts & Social Sciences)

FINDINGS:

- 12 completed the survey in full (26% patricipation rate)
- Faculties- Science (2), Arts & Social Science (8), & Public Affairs (2).
- In the past 5 years, these faculty published between 1 & 25 papers (mean = 10)
  - Science faculty's papers were all co-authored (100%)
  - Arts and Social Science faculty's papers ranged from 9% to 100% of their papers being co-authored.
  - In Public Affairs, one faculty member's papers were co-authored 89% of the time, while the other wrote individually.

WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT "SPOT" IN A LIST OF AUTHORS?

Are there Common Practices with Grad Students?



- YES (Geography; Economics Chemistry) (3)
- NO (English Lang & Lit; Philosophy; History; Polical Science; Chemistry) (4)
- DON'T KNOW (Psychology; Cdn Studies; Linguistics)(4)
- DID NOT ANSWER (1)

WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS JUSTIFY AUTHORSHIP CREDIT?

- Most agreement among all disciplines include
  - **Analysing data to answer research question (8)**
  - **Writing the literature review/introduction section of the article (7)**
  - **Planning the details for the research project/developing the research questions and methodology (6)**
  - **Writing an outline/organizing the article. (6)**
- Listing order of authors determined by most work done for the majority of respondents (7)

RESEARCH LIMITATIONS

- Preliminary survey only sent to departmental chairs & directors.
- Small sample size BUT results will help inform future research methods & audiences

NEXT STEPS:

The university library has an opportunity to help guide both new & more established researchers into the intricacies of this aspect of the scholarly publishing landscape. Further investigation of specific discipline results & graduate student practices will help shed light on a sometimes confusing set of rules for researchers and research administrators.

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