

Maximizing your campus connections:

Advancing research development through library partnerships

Fostering Collaboration and Advancing Research

Breaking down silos to create an atmosphere conducive to collaboration is a challenge for any institution but especially for highly decentralized research universities.

University libraries are a natural point for connecting researchers across disciplines since library resources and services enable and support their work.

By building strong partnerships between library faculty/staff and research development professionals (RDPs), both groups are better able to support their common goal of advancing research, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and introducing emerging tools (e.g., funding databases) to the campus community.

Ohio State's University Libraries is contributing to this shared goal in new ways, by creating a Research Commons that leverages campus partnerships to provide support at each stage of the research lifecycle through education and training, consultations, referrals, and showcasing research.

Building Strong Partnerships

A network of strong partnerships has already been established through this initiative, even though the Research Commons is not set to open until Spring 2016.

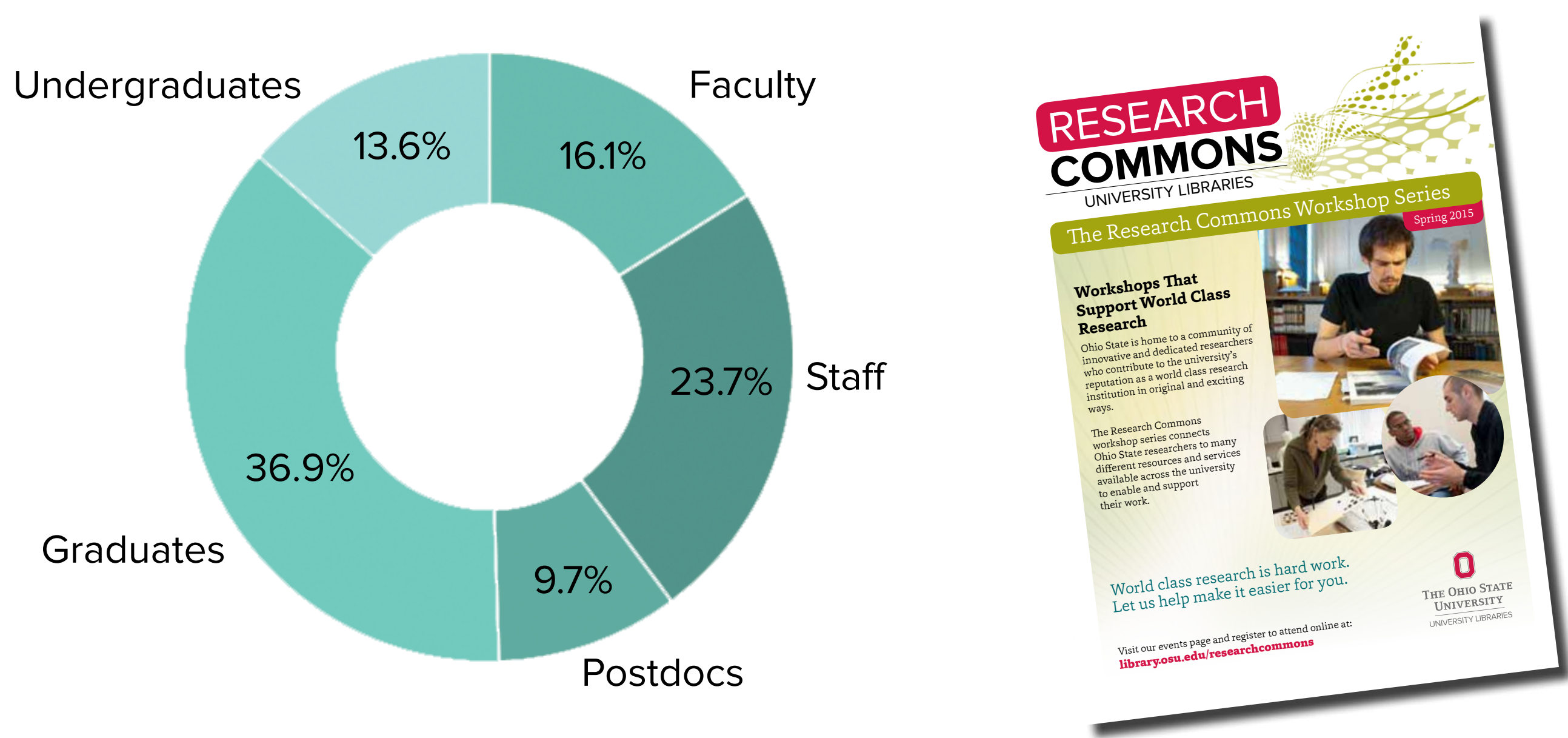
This network includes research support units in the University Libraries, the Office of Research, and across Ohio State's campus.

University Libraries	Copyright Resources Center Data Management Services Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Services Knowledge Bank (Institutional Repository) Libraries Publishing Program
Office of Research	Funding Opportunities Industry Liaison Office Office of Research Compliance Office of Responsible Research Practices Office of Sponsored Programs
Partners Across Campus	Office of Distance Education and eLearning Ohio Supercomputer Center Technology Commercialization Office Undergraduate Research Office Writing Center

These partnerships have led to collaborative programming and informed the services that will ultimately shape the development of the space.

Creating Connections through Education and Training

During the Autumn 2014 and Spring 2015 semesters, the Research Commons and its partners provided programming for over 440 researchers from more than 120 departments.



Part of the early success of these events is related to their “2-for-1” style. Virtually all workshops pair an internal library partner with an external campus partner.

In this way, researchers can come to one event and learn about two different, but related, research support services available to them at Ohio State.

- Through these events, the Research Commons creates connections:**
- Between researchers, by bringing scholars from different disciplines into the same room to engage in a workshop or panel discussion
 - Between researchers and research support units, by providing information about services that can enable and support their work
 - Between research support units, by encouraging them to work collaboratively to create and deliver content for these sessions

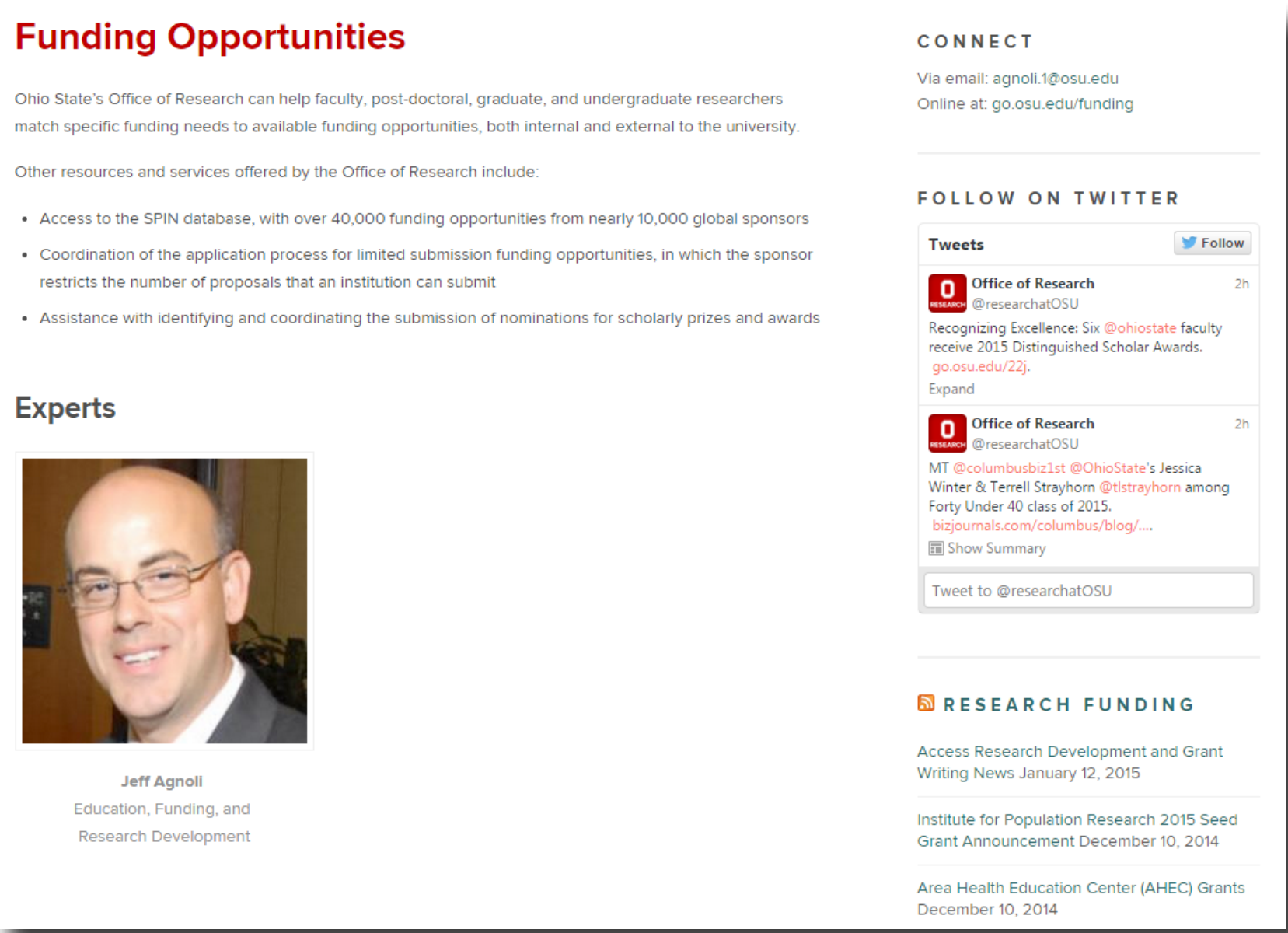
Establishing an Online Presence

The Research Commons website acts as a virtual referral point, highlighting its partnerships and the research support expertise available across the university, as visitors can browse ‘Experts’ pages.

Each page contains a short description of services offered, avenues that researchers can use to contact or stay up-to-date with our partners, and the specific individual(s) with whom a researcher may interact, allowing faculty and students to associate names and faces with particular research support services.

Beginning in Spring 2016, the website will also allow researchers to schedule one-on-one or small-group consultations with our partners in the physical space.

In this way, we can interface with researchers at their point of need by referring them out to partners and also by bringing partners into the space to meet with researchers.



Offering a Physical Space

With its location in a centralized, discipline-neutral library space, the Research Commons aims to be a welcoming resource for the entire Ohio State research community.

The Research Commons is designed to be a unique and flexible space, where faculty, staff, and students can engage in a diverse array of activities across all stages of the research lifecycle – planning, conducting, publishing, and increasing impact.

- 1 **A high-tech data visualization studio** fits well with an emerging campus-wide interest in data analytics and makes advanced software and technology accessible to researchers in all disciplines.
- 2 **A parliamentary-style classroom** is perfect for highly-interactive, “Bring Your Own Device” training sessions on tools like the InfoEd SPIN funding database and DMPTool for data management plans.
- 3 **A boardroom-style presentation room**, enabled with videoconferencing technology, is well-suited to interdisciplinary red team review sessions and collaborative projects across institutional boundaries.
- 4 **A central colloquium space** will be highly-used for research showcase events, such as featured lectures from university faculty in different departments and interdisciplinary student poster sessions.



Renderings provided by BHDP Architecture.

Looking Forward to the Future

The partnerships and services discussed here have already benefited the University Libraries, other research support units across the university, and most importantly, the researchers at Ohio State.

By facilitating greater access to relevant technology and research support expertise in a single location, the Research Commons is poised to be a hub for connection, collaboration, and innovation for Ohio State's researchers and RDPs alike.

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