

A robust search strategy for acknowledgments of core contributions in scientific publications

Christopher Gregory (christopher_gregory@med.unc.edu), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, **Kara Clissold**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - School of Medicine, **Laura McNeil**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Objectives: Acknowledgment of core facility contributions in scientific publications is essential to demonstrate data provenance and to credit the core's impact. The collection of core acknowledgments is an important tool for institutions to assess ROI from core facilities. The Office of Research Technologies at UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine devised and executed a robust search strategy to capture publication acknowledgments of core facilities. **Methods:** Core directors provided key information and search terms for their core. A Google Scholar search was performed, and results curated with each publication's title and digital object identifier (doi). Student dissertations/theses were also curated. Core directors created a core-specific profile on Web of Science and imported acknowledgments into the profile. Relevant search terms were provided to core directors, and they established a Google Scholar auto-alert email notification to keep acknowledgment profiles up to date. **Results:** Searches were conducted for 46 cores, resulting in 5,754 publication acknowledgments and 139 patents (2017-2021). Since 1995, 2,239 students from 184 universities, acknowledged UNC cores in their dissertations/theses. This new search scheme captures 10-fold more citations than prior passive collection efforts. **Conclusions:** Using Google Scholar searches enabled UNC cores to capture acknowledgments and establish an automated process to receive regular updates.