

Using PowerBI to create and effectively communicate Core metrics and equipment roadmaps

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Core Directors are often asked to present a one to five year strategic plan around equipment needs as part of their annual reporting. This exercise relies on utilization data, research impact, as well as equipment age, useful life and technology developments. Other factors to take into account are the Core's mission and the broader institutional strategic plans. This kind of data is usually stored in various places to which Core Directors do not always have easy access. Presenting this kind of data to justify expensive equipment asks can also be challenging as leadership does not always have the time to dive into data-heavy spreadsheets. They also ask targeted questions about data that are hard to derive quickly out of spreadsheets during discussions. Data visualization is an effective way to translate complex data into visual context. It allows one to quickly identify trends that numbers alone cannot easily reveal, and discover hidden patterns in a dashboard. Cores can make significantly better operational decisions by using this information. We will present a case study of how to use PowerBI, a low cost, easy-to-use, customizable and interactive data visualization tool, to track Core performance and research impact in addition to an equipment roadmap for strategic planning of equipment sunsetting, replacements or upgrading. PowerBI dashboards with real Core data will also be shown dynamically on a tablet using the PowerBI app to show its full extent of features.