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ENVIRONMENTAL SCANNING

Since 2009, UPRM has carried out several assessment strategies to identify the research services and infrastructure needs of researchers, i.e. graduate students and faculty. For instance, a graduate student questionnaire (2009), a survey for faculty (2010), and in-depth interviews to key researchers and administrators (2014) revealed the need for assistance with technical writing, communication skills, search strategies, and ethical use of information. The researchers expected new services encompassing data management, authorship, copyright, and organizing, sharing, and preserving information in the digital environment. In terms of infrastructure, they identified the lack of collaborative spaces where teaching and research services coincide.

PARTNERSHIP WITH COLLABORATORS

Strategic collaborations were established with main units across and beyond campus to fulfill the identified needs, improve services, and pursue external funding opportunities.



APPLYING FOR FUNDING

The following steps were crucial to secure a \$2.4 million grant from the U.S. Dept. of Ed.

- Active participation in academic initiatives to gain insight into the research endeavours and interact with stakeholders.
- Subscription to email listservs to identify and, when possible, apply to grant sources.
- Partnering with campus leaders bearing significant grant writing experience, with success administering external funds, and proficiency in publishing.
- Agreement with project team and administrators on funds and release time to carry out proposed activities.
- Alignment with institutional goals with priorities established in the grant solicitation.

Our successful proposal was based on reviews and criticism received after failed attempts.

FEEDBACK BASED DESIGN

Needs/suggestions were collected through surveys, focus groups, and individual interviews to serve as a basis to develop, alongside the architect, the final design of the collaborative research space.



Faculty and graduate students were asked to complete two exercises: (1) individually draw the arrangement of the area, and (2) exchange and discuss ideas as a group to designate services, select furniture, and propose technology based on individual preferences.



GRIC's current layout

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MISSION

- Facilitate research services and support graduate education at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.

OBJECTIVES

- Support the research and innovation ecosystem across the entire scholarly lifecycle.
- Provide a holistic suite of services in which students can be referred to specialists with the proper subject, technology, or content development expertise.
- Provide a robust technological infrastructure to support interdisciplinary and interactive collaborations.
- Support graduate students' needs as both information consumers and information producers.

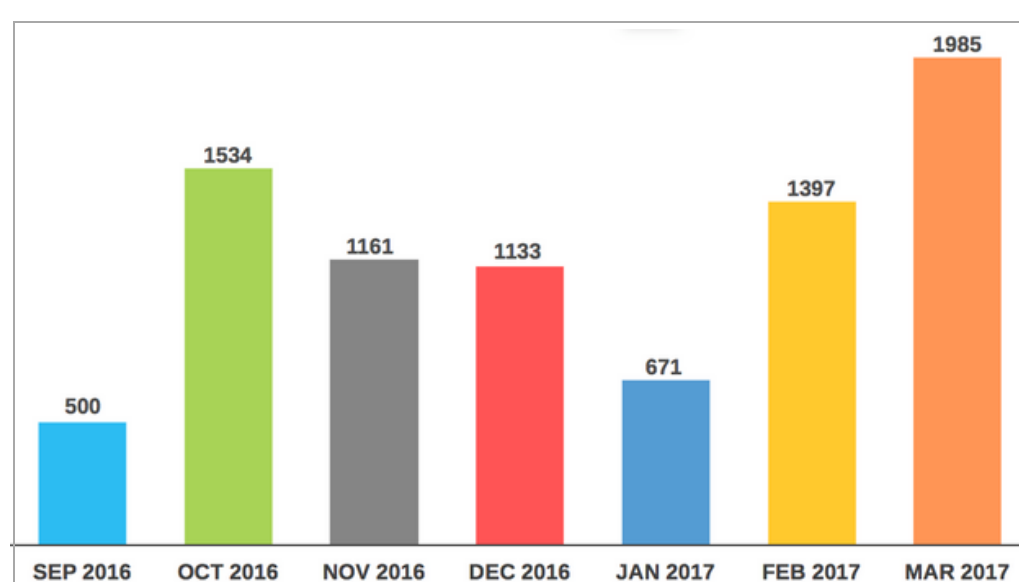


This multi-purpose research commons was designed as an open space to promote the exchange of ideas, interactions between peers and the development of innovative initiatives. Further, it can function as an extension of the conference room; three small rooms (hubs) with moveable ergonomic furniture and cutting edge technology for Apple or PCs systems that can be transformed to support the needs of each team. A conference/multisite room tailored to offer seminars, workshops and other educational activities, is also open to graduate students, faculty, and researchers who may adapt the facilities and technologies to meet their needs.

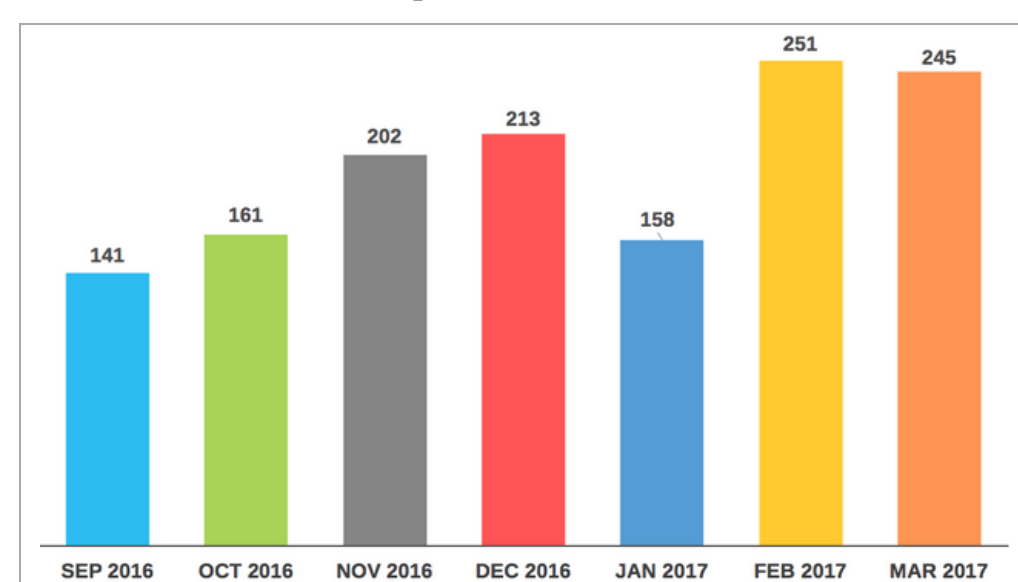
IMPACT

The Graduate Research and Innovation Center (GRIC), inaugurated in September 2016, is changing the way that the library intervenes in the UPRM research ecosystem. The GRIC was envisioned as an appealing place where researchers, students, and faculty from diverse backgrounds and interests to come together to develop innovative projects. It is also an enriching space with tailored services in academic writing, scholarly communications, research methodology, digital scholarship and data management, among others.

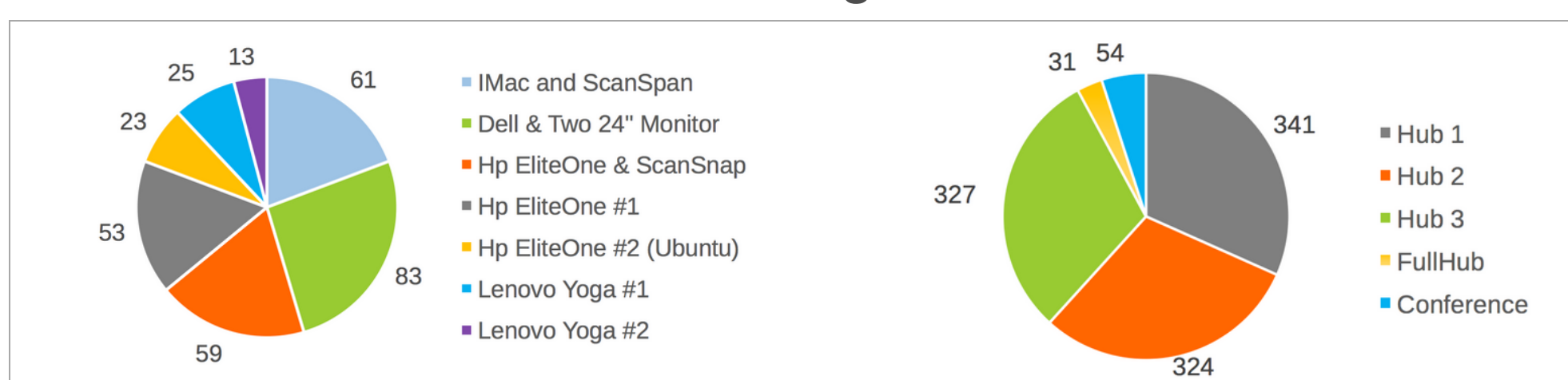
Total Visits to Facilities



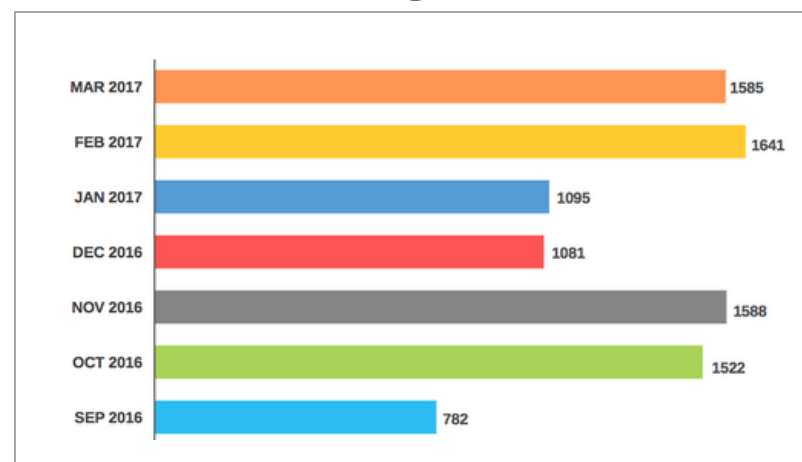
Unique Users



Total PC & Room Bookings SEP 2016 - MAR 2017



GRIC's Libguide Visits



Other Interactions



SERVICES

The research lifecycle has been defined as the core competencies of GRIC, intersected by ACRL's *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education*.

Academic Communication:

The Graduate Writing Facilitators (GWF) offer personalized support to graduate students in oral and written academic communication.

Research Integrity:

Graduate students, faculty, and researchers have access to Turnitin and iThenticate, two online platforms that help validate original work.

Electronic & Print Resources:

As part of our support program for research, graduate students have access to databases such as JSTOR and style manuals such as MLA, APA (Spanish & English), ACS, Chicago & CSE.

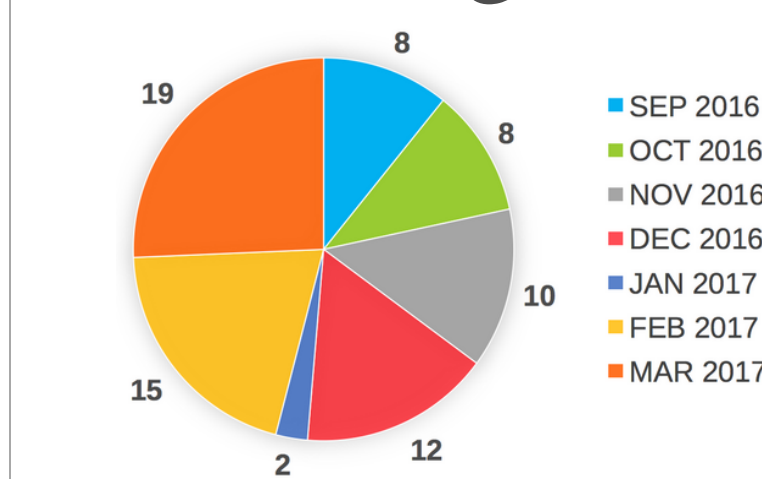
Consulting:

Data management plans, preservation of paper or electronic research documents, deposits in the institutional digital repository, among others.

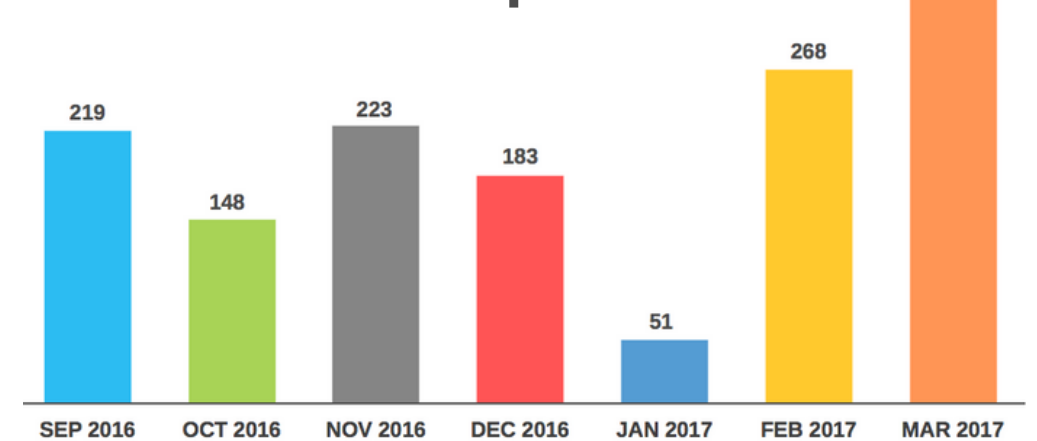
Training & Professional Development:

Newly created workshops include: Professional Online Presence, Data Management Plans and Best Practices, Literature Review, Elevator Speech, Citation Management (Mendeley), Plagiarism 101, Poster Presentation, and Academic Branding.

Activities @GRIC



Participants



TECHNOLOGY

Technology Infrastructure: 26 laptops, 6 All-in-Ones, 1 PC desktop with server specifications, 1 Apple iMac & MacBook Pro computers, 1 80" Sharp Aquos interactive board & LCD, 1 steelcase media:scape collaborative desk with two 32" Samsung smart LCDs, 2 55" Samsung smart LCDs, one with an Apple TV and the other with Lenovo Stick 300 Windows pocket-sized PC, 2 scanners, and 2 video conferencing systems.

Network Infrastructure: 100 one Gbps data ports, 150 wireless access points, 4 HP managed switches for VLAN segregation.

Server Infrastructure: Private dedicated LAN and single sign-on authentication, access control system, & CentOS server for the institutional digital repository using the DSpace platform.

Springshare Suite: User centered website for administration and data tracking

<http://libguides.uprm.edu/gric>

PLANS

- Expand data services, implement data repository, increase workshops related to data management, and create a data management course.
- Continued improvement of services, facilities, technologies, and collections based on assessment results.
- Share experiences to redesign dedicated library areas, for instance, a makerspace for undergraduate students.