

Research Incentive Fund Report

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The 2016 InULA Research Funds supported my travel to Warsaw, Poland, where I completed the second phase of fieldwork for the multi-year ethnographic study, “Early Career Scholars’ Information-Seeking Practices in Poland.” This study examines the information-seeking and management practices of Polish researchers at universities and scientific institutes in Warsaw, and focuses particularly on the interrelationships between scholars’ workflows for accessing, evaluating, and publishing scholarly materials.

During the phase of this study I conducted 13 interviews exploring the effects of policy and funding decisions on scholars’ production and consumption of research materials, the library and non-library systems and tools they used to access information, and the structural factors that caused them to substitute alternative access options in place of library resources. Transcription and preliminary analysis of these interviews is complete, along with 17 interviews collected in 2015 during Phase 1 of this study.

I presented the results of this analysis in a paper entitled “Engaging with Researchers in Practice: An Investigation of Polish Early-career Scholars’ Information Workflows” at the 75th Annual Meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts and Science of America (PIASA) in June 2017. After incorporating feedback from this presentation, I plan to complete a journal article based on this research by the end of 2017.