



BACKGROUND

Medical librarians regularly provide guidance on compliance issues related to the NIH Public Access Policy, which requires that all peer-reviewed publications supported by NIH funding be submitted to PubMed Central within ninety days of publication. In order to limit the amount of staff time dedicated to notifying author teams of non-compliant articles and to increase overall compliance, library staff built an automated notification system using only existent resources and systems.

METHODS

The project required two forms of development: one technical and one social.

Technical Methods:

The system was built by creating a data pipeline that integrates and transforms data pulled from:

- NIH Public Access Compliance Monitor (PACM)
- Symplectic Elements
- Microsoft Access

The code was written in python using the Pandas library and is available on this poster via the QR code. Microsoft's Mail Merge was used to send dynamic emails based on the final dataset.

Social Methods:

Library staff members developed an outreach strategy that involved introducing the tool prior to its launch using:

- blog posts
- campus newsletters
- library instruction sessions
- directed emails

Additional efforts were made to build relationships with administrators and coordinators of large grants to more efficiently manage compliance at scale.

CODE ACCESS

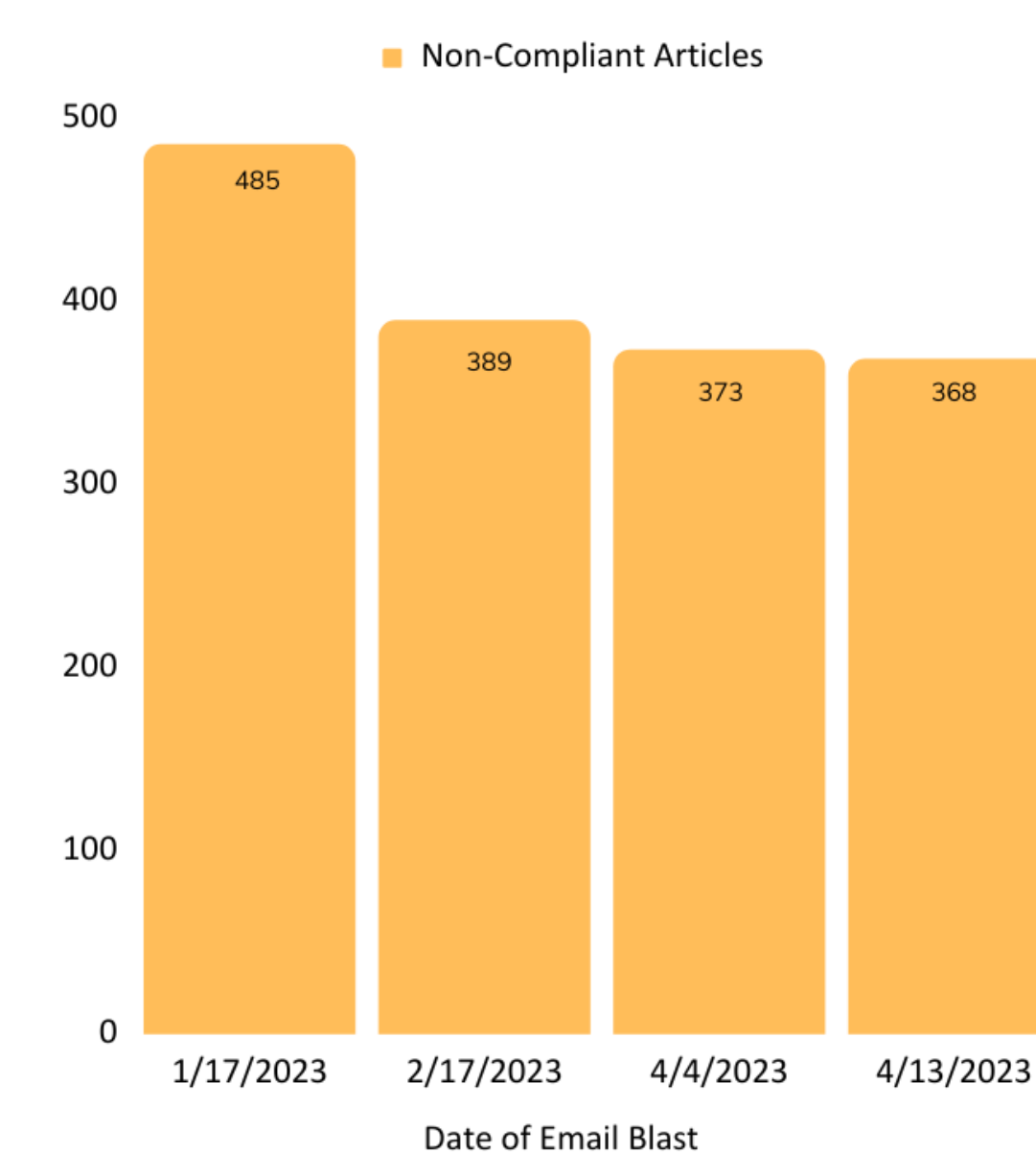


Access the code and documentation for this project by scanning the QR Code above.

OUTCOMES

- Delivered 1,300+ emails to authors of non-compliant papers in the first two mass emails
- Brought more than 110 papers into compliance between the first two mass emails
- Observed a 25% decrease in non-compliance for the specified time period of 1/2019 to 12/2022 (Figure 1)

FIGURE 1 Non-Compliance change over time since system launch.



SIGNIFICANCE

- Significantly reduced time spent searching for non-compliant papers
- Significantly reduced time spent consulting with non-compliant authors
- Developed stronger relationships with grant coordinators and administrators
- Established the Medical Library as the primary resource for questions about compliance
- Cultivated researchers' skills to manage their own compliance and troubleshoot their own issues

LESSONS LEARNED

- Be aware of the size of the grant prior to including PIs on emails; some grants are too large for PIs to manage or even have knowledge of publications connected to their funding.
- Choose the date and time of mass emails intentionally. Do not send emails on Mondays or Fridays, near holidays, or near the end of the day.

LIMITATIONS

Domain is the primary limitation of the project. The system can only send emails within the Duke University Directory. This presented some issues when the first or primary author is at another institution or has left the university.