Medical Librarian in the Trenches

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The health information profession provides access to and delivers important information that improves patient care and supports education, research, and publication.
The Numbers
1 National Library of Medicine
8 Regional Medical Libraries
125 Resource Libraries
5000 Libraries
The Types
Academic Health Sciences Libraries
Special Libraries
Hospital Libraries
Physician Group Practice Libraries
Corporate/Pharmaceutical Libraries
Community College Libraries
The Roles
Teaching health professionals
Helping patients
Attending Rounds
Bringing information to patient’s beside
Connecting resources to EMR
Conducting community outreach
Designing and managing technology
Contributing to research efforts
The Evidence
“Health Sciences libraries and librarians have an increasingly important role in providing information to clinicians as well as to patients and their families.”

- Sollenberger and Holloway
75% health professionals handled some aspect of patient care situation differently as a result of information obtained from the library and information resources.

71% health professionals changed how they managed the care of a patient as a result of information from the health sciences library and resources.

“.... the medical profession should give more attention to teaching students and clinicians skills that could improve their evidence searching.”

- Sollenberger and Holloway
The Connection
- Partnership between Augusta University and the University of Georgia
- Opened in August 2010
- Four-year Medical School Campus
- Current enrollment of 160 medical students
- 43 Faculty
- 1 Librarian Faculty
Embedded Model

“The librarian becomes a part of the customer community rather than a service provider standing apart.”

– David Shumacher
COMMUNITY HEALTH FACILITATOR

The librarian works with a physician to lead one of the 5 community health M1 teams.

ITEM WRITER

Test items on the librarian’s material are written in USMLE-Style for the weekly quizzes and the finals.

TEACHER

She teaches the search skills and EBM principles to the first and second year students. The students learn how to appraise the literature as well.

COMMITTEE MEMBER

The librarian is an active member of the ECM curriculum committee. She meets with them weekly for planning.

COLLABORATOR

The Campus Associate Dean of Curriculum, the ECM Coordinator, and the Librarian work closely to plan the searching sessions in ECM curriculum.

ASSESSOR

The students receive grades for all their search assignments that coincide with the search sessions, for their community health projects & for the items that the librarian adds to the tests.
Health Sciences Librarians

- Improve skills in searching literature to facilitate the integration of research evidence into clinical decision-making
- Save time for health professionals
- Provide relevant health information for decision making
- Reduce the patient’s length of stay in the hospital
Resources


