Current literature

Technology

URL: http://ejournals.bc.edu/ojs/index.php/ital/article/view/5495 OPEN ACCESS
In the era of online searching, the authors argue that librarians have a professional responsibility to increase patron’s awareness about online surveillance. A second area of responsibility is to include a focus on online privacy in digital literacy training offered by librarians. This article provides a useful overview of behavioural tracking and responses. It outlines the pros and cons of behavioural tracking, how to identify resources that use such tracking and how to limit them.

DOI: 10.3163/1536-5050.103.4.003
Results of a cross-sectional web based survey are presented outlining paediatric hospital based physicians (aka hospitalists) preferences for evidence based resources. UptoDate was found to be the preferred resource for clinical questions and Google the preference for patient handouts and general information. The authors point out a potential for recall bias as the results are based on responses to a survey without any observation of information seeking behaviour.

DOI: 10.1016/j.ijinfomgt.2015.04.010
This article focuses on the development of wearable technology. It explores advances in wearable technology and highlights how they are being used in the field of healthcare and medical education. Challenges and opportunities that this technology brings based on the theory of disruptive innovations are discussed.

Demonstrating impact of library and information services

DOI: 10.3163/1536-5050.103.4.015
This JMLA column contains 5 items which examine the role of technology in enhancing library impact. The technologies and topics covered include: PinInterest to curate images for a children’s mental health resources; A Response and Recovery App in Washington; embedding an ‘ask a librarian’ button into the Electronic Health Record; using visualization to showcase library research services; using a Customer Relationship System to evaluate library services; building a data catalog through a partnership approach and 3D printing services for health care.
DOI: 10.1080/15323269.2015.1079687
The author describes initiatives at a community hospital library which highlight its value and relevancy to key stakeholders. The key to the success is to forge partnerships with healthcare professionals and senior administrators in the hospital and to work collaboratively towards common goals. Services described include a training program on point-of-care resources, health literacy training, participation in orientation, NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) program support, e-mail alerts for senior administration, movie programming, and research support.

Authors present a summary of evidence from the literature which supports the value of health libraries and librarians to patient care. Some emphasis is given to literature emanating from Australia, in particular from a financial perspective, where expenditure on hospital libraries accounts for just 0.1% of recurrent expenditure in Australian hospitals. This is a short but useful reference article for all health science librarians looking to the literature for evidence of their value.

Roles for Health Science Librarians

Foster, Margaret J. (2015) An overview of the role of librarians in systematic reviews: from expert search to project manager Journal of EAHIL 11(3): 3-7
URL: http://eahil.eu/jeahil/ OPEN ACCESS
This article is a must read for anyone who missed EAHIL in 2015 and who are interested in developing a systematic review service or enhancing existing systematic review services in their library. The author summarizes both of the workshops presented at EAHIL in Edinburgh and includes links to useful resources in this article. The role of the librarian in systematic reviews is described and it is seen as a key collaborative endeavour which helps build valuable connections with clients.

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/ITP-09-2014-0214
This Finnish study focuses on the concept of health space. The authors describe a national project where citizens are empowered to have a role as partner with health providers in their patient journey. This is an observational and conceptual piece of research with findings that may inform the development of personal health records and health decision support aids.

DOI: 10.1111/hir.12122
This article discusses the role of the health librarian with specific reference to the provision of consumer health information. The research is informed by a literature review, an analysis of job advertisements and a survey of public and health librarians. Findings revealed a significant difference of opinion between public and medical librarians about the appropriate title for a health informationist working in their libraries. Public librarians’ preference was for ‘health information librarian’ while librarians at medical libraries answered ‘medical librarian’. Both groups agreed a minimum educational achievement of a Degree was required for the role along with at least 2 years of library field experience with health-related user training.
Continuing Professional Development/Education

DOI: 10.1080/02763869.2015.1082373

Online instruction is a hot topic at academic medical centers. Seizing the opportunity to join the online movement at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), the McGoogan Library created an open access course made up of six learning modules. The modules addressed three issues: 1) supplementing one-shot library instruction, 2) offering opportunity for instruction when a librarian is not embedded in a course, and 3) showcasing the library as an online instruction supporter. This article discusses the planning process, technology used, how the modules were received, and how this initial project increased McGoogan Library's involvement in the UNMC online movement. [Abstract from publisher]

Editor’s Pick

DOI: 10.1080/15323269.2015.1079686

Key points

- Librarians need to develop competencies in data visualization basics
- Librarians should choose sound data sources to represent their message visually
- A number of tools are useful for librarians including Piktochart Easel.ly and Infor.gram
- The goals of information visualization and data visualization are not the same

Take home message

Hospital and health science librarians are under pressure to demonstrate their value and make themselves more visible to their communities. This article uses up-to-date software backed up by marketing principles encouraging librarians to showcase their value in a modern, visual way.

* Aoife Lawton, Systems Librarian, Health Service Executive, Dublin, Ireland
* Contributions should be sent to aoife.lawton@hse.ie

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