

Health Sciences Librarianship



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Edited by M. Sandra Wood

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Health Sciences Librarianship

MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BOOKS

The Medical Library Association (MLA) features books that showcase the expertise of health sciences librarians for other librarians and professionals.

MLA Books are excellent resources for librarians in hospitals, medical research practice, and other settings. These volumes will provide health care professionals and patients with accurate information that can improve outcomes and save lives.

Each book in the series has been overseen editorially since conception by the Medical Library Association Books Panel, composed of MLA members with expertise spanning the breadth of health sciences librarianship.

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Founded in 1898, MLA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, educational organization of 4,000 individual and institutional members in the health sciences information field that provides lifelong educational opportunities, supports a knowledgebase of health information research, and works with a global network of partners to promote the importance of quality information for improved health to the health care community and the public.

Books in Series

The Medical Library Association Guide to Providing Consumer and Patient Health Information edited by Michelle Spatz

Health Sciences Librarianship edited by M. Sandra Wood

Preface

The field of library and information sciences, especially health sciences librarianship, continues to be impacted by the rapid social and technological changes of the past decade. Bob Dylan's 1964 song about the times changing is as true today, fifty years after it was written, as it was then. Then, it referred to the social changes of the times—the civil rights movement and social unrest. Today, with the technological changes that have brought the influence of social media to play in libraries, it is equally valid. The difference is that fifty years ago, change was slow to come. Today, change is happening at a lightning pace, and what's useful and a mainstay in how libraries provide services now may be outdated and totally different in the near future.

Health sciences libraries continue to be at the forefront of the profession, adapting to changes not only in the technology arena, but also to rapid advancements in the health care field. The past five years, even, have seen more change and adaptation by health sciences librarians than in the previous ten years. Whereas the Internet was still new in the 1990s and early 2000s, it is now ubiquitous. The transition from print to electronic, although not complete, is virtually here. Virtual health sciences libraries are now the accepted "norm"—users expect to be able to access needed resources anytime, from any place, worldwide, for research, patient care, and educational needs. As new technologies develop to improve access methods and keep data safe, health sciences librarians are adapting and not only using those technologies themselves, but developing new teaching roles to help researchers, clinicians, and students learn how to use these new tools.

At the same time that librarians are adapting to keep up with changes, they are also cognizant that their roles as health sciences librarians are evolving, and that they must become more integrated into the institutions they serve to create a future of collaboration and involvement—one in which they move outside the confines of the library to serve patrons at the point of need, whether as embedded librarians or informationists, as clinical librarians or patient educators, or as course-integrated instructors in the medical curriculum or as simulation laboratory managers. The new roles are limited only by a librarian's abilities, willingness to collaborate with professional colleagues in the health care field, and his or her imagination and drive to succeed.

With every opportunity will come some sense of loss. To add a new service, an old or outdated service may need to be abandoned. For example, as reference statistics

have dropped in favor of services provided to patrons as part of new embedded or informationist programs, or are replaced by virtual reference methods in place of in-person visits, the need for a reference desk has diminished, only to be replaced by a single-point-of-service desk. With the move to an electronic collection, print books and journals are rapidly disappearing from libraries, opening up space for new services such as simulation labs, learning commons, and group study rooms equipped with state-of-the-art technologies. Health sciences librarians are embracing these changes in functions and roles while still maintaining their roles as information experts and knowledge managers. These are only a sampling of changes going on right now—and expected for the future.

Health Sciences Librarianship is a comprehensive textbook that is intended for the library science student and new health sciences librarians. The purpose of this text is to provide new librarians with the background and core content needed to handle day-to-day activities and provide quality services in a health sciences library. Health sciences librarians now practice in more than academic health sciences libraries and hospitals—they are located in libraries in general academic and community colleges with health professions educational programs, consumer health libraries, corporate libraries, and more. Although of necessity some general librarianship content is included, *Health Sciences Librarianship* offers core information specific to the needs of practicing health sciences librarians, including real-life examples of programs and services.

This book was written at a time when library functions are changing—roles within the health sciences library are merging or disappearing, only to be replaced by new, emerging roles and job positions with new titles. The book has an overall “classic” approach—technical services versus public services, reference versus access services, and so forth—but in reality, these roles are blurring and blending, depending on the specific library and the institution it serves. And, depending on the size of the library, one or two persons (e.g., in a hospital library) may carry out all roles. However, throughout the book, one theme stands—collaboration. Health sciences librarians are more than service providers; they have become part of the health care team. Libraries and librarians have traditionally collaborated with each other, but new roles are taking the health sciences librarian out of the library and into collaborative roles within research departments and clinical teams. As this transition continues, the need for possible additional subject-related training and continuing education/professional development is apparent; the Medical Library Association plays an important part in helping librarians keep their skills up to date.

ORGANIZATION

Chapter authors were asked to make their content relevant to academic health sciences librarians and hospital librarians, and where appropriate, to other librarians in the health care field. Chapters feature “vignettes”—brief “pearls of wisdom” and statements from practicing librarians relevant to the topic being discussed. Many of the chapters feature sections on keeping current and staying abreast of new technologies, reflecting the volatility of the events shaping the profession. Additionally, each chapter contains Study Questions for use as questions for the reader to assess

and think about chapter content, or for use by instructors who might want to assign questions to students. Chapters are extensively documented for readers who want to pursue more subject content.

Health Sciences Librarianship contains sixteen chapters that are organized into four major parts—Part I: The Profession (chapters 1–3); Part II: Collection Services (chapters 4–6); Part III: User Services (chapters 7–13); and Part IV: Administrative Services (chapters 14–16). Although the organization of the book is “traditional,” chapter content recognizes that the role of the library and librarians continues to evolve, and the focus is on current and future roles and contributions of health sciences librarians.

Part I: The Profession begins with Chapter 1, “Health Sciences Librarianship in Context,” written by James Shedlock. This chapter overviews health sciences librarianship and types of health sciences libraries; the National Library of Medicine and NN/LM; library organizations, with a focus on the Medical Library Association; education for librarianship; job opportunities; and continuing education/professional development, including the Academy of Health Information Professionals.

The second chapter, “Health Sciences Librarianship and Environmental Influences,” is coauthored by Gale Hannigan and Jonathan Eldredge. The chapter addresses the health care system, including medical education and health sciences education (nurses, allied health); standards and accreditations; and the library’s role. Also included is information about legislation and health sciences research, including translational science and human subjects.

Chapter 3, also written by Jonathan Eldredge and Gale Hannigan, discusses “Trends Affecting Health Sciences Librarianship.” The trends selected for this chapter are evidence-based practice, active learning, innovative research collaborations, and strategies for adapting new technologies.

Part II: Collection Services begins with Chapter 4, “Collection Development,” which is written by Holly Phillips. The chapter covers modern collection development and creating a collection development policy. Practical applications of using the policy are presented, followed by development of resource budgets.

“Technical Services in Health Sciences Libraries” (Chapter 5) is coauthored by Megan Del Baglivo, C. Steven Douglas, and María Pinkas. Acquisitions, cataloging, classification systems, metadata, and ILS/discovery tools are the topics of this chapter. The emphasis is on the National Library’s classification system and Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), and the authors introduce the newer concepts of RDA and Dublin Core.

In Chapter 6, Nancy R. Glassman introduces “Technology Services in Health Sciences Libraries.” She covers topics of general interest to all libraries, including planning and security, but she also focuses on topics of special interest to health sciences libraries such as electronic health records. Systems, mobile technologies, and emerging technologies are presented with a focus on use in health sciences libraries. Keeping current is especially important for this chapter.

Part III: User Services begins with Chapter 7, “Reference and Information Services in Health Sciences Libraries”—one of the areas of librarianship that is changing rapidly. Marie Ascher covers the reference interview, types of users and questions typically received in a health sciences library, reference statistics, models of providing reference service including the move toward a single point of service, and virtual

reference services. Reference statistics show a downward trend, as health sciences librarians are providing more in-depth services as discussed in Chapter 8, and newer outreach and data management services are introduced, as discussed in chapters 9 and 10.

"Research Services and Database Searching in Health Sciences Libraries" (Chapter 8, by Lee Vucovich) covers information needs of biomedical researchers and focuses on searching the most important biomedical databases (e.g., MEDLINE/PubMed, CINAHL, Scopus, and Web of Science). She describes the support needed for EBP, involvement of librarians in expert searches, organizing references with a reference manager, and more.

Michele Tennant describes "Outreach Services in Health Sciences Libraries" in Chapter 9. Outreach can occur both within and outside the institution. Some specific outreach efforts within the institution include liaison and embedded librarians, and informationists. Health sciences librarians are already involved in these activities, and these roles are expected to expand. Outside the institution, librarians reach out to members of the community and patients. Marketing is one of the features in a section about outreach for visibility.

Chapter 10, "Research Data Management and the Health Sciences Librarian," is coauthored by Andrew Creamer, Elaine R. Martin, and Donna Kafel, librarians who are involved in the forefront of programs in Research Data Management (RDM) at the University of Massachusetts Health Sciences Library. This thorough discussion of RDM covers everything from reasons to manage research and challenges involved to skills and competencies, tools, and resources librarians need. This field is just opening up and is representative of the new roles health sciences librarians are undertaking.

In Chapter 11, "Instruction in Health Sciences Libraries," Maureen "Molly" Knapp covers the history of instruction, generations of learners that librarians must plan for, learning paradigms, and newer disruptive technologies affecting teaching in health sciences libraries. She covers the various types of user education provided, along with instructional design techniques and web-based learning.

"Access Services: Circulation, Course Reserves, and Interlibrary Loan in Health Sciences Libraries" are the topics covered in Chapter 12. Authors Everly Brown, Na Lin, and Megan Wolff cover a variety of issues related to accessing the library's resources, both physical and electronic: access for the disabled, security, remote storage, e-reserves, interlibrary loan and document delivery, copyright, and newer methods of access such as pay-per-view and purchase on demand (as the interlibrary loan role overlaps with collection development areas).

In Chapter 13, "Consumer Health Information Services," Kay Hogan Smith overviews CHI services, first providing a history of the consumer movement and then describing several active CHI services; she describes the role of the National Library of Medicine in consumer health, along with health literacy. The second part of the chapter discusses how to establish and manage a CHI service, from needs assessment and planning, through policies, staffing, collection development, and evaluation.

Part IV: Administrative Services begins with Chapter 14, "Library Administration in Health Sciences Libraries." Librarians new to the field need to understand what the library director or manager does; librarians looking at moving up to higher level

positions also need an understanding of the core functions of the library administrator. In this chapter, Diana Cunningham covers the library director/manager's multiple roles, from working with administration and institutional peers and managing the institutional environment, to managing and mentoring staff, professional networking, and collaboration with colleagues and other libraries. Also included in this chapter are management theories, the role of standards and accreditation, evaluation, and obtaining financial support.

In Chapter 15, "Physical Space in Health Sciences Libraries," Stewart Brower describes technical factors in space planning and space needs of different types of health sciences libraries, and then focuses on the use of space based on library functions (e.g., collections, users, teaching, points of service, staff, and innovative use of space). Included are spaces for new technologies in media, collaborative spaces, library commons, and simulation labs.

In the final chapter of the book (Chapter 16, "New Roles and New Horizons for Health Sciences Librarians and Libraries"), Margaret Henderson discusses the transformation of health sciences librarianship as librarians move into more collaborative roles. Some content from previous chapters is expanded (e.g., informationists and research data management) from a different perspective, but also to emphasize the changing roles and relationships, along with the actual change in the organization of health sciences libraries today.

A Glossary and Index complete the volume.

In a world where researchers and clinicians often believe libraries may not be needed, it is critical for health sciences librarians to make themselves indispensable within the institution (and document the need for their services); to align the library mission with that of its parent institution; proactively to develop new services such as embedded librarians, clinical and research informationists; and to become involved in research data management. All of these roles place the health sciences librarian as a collaborator, not just a provider of services. The times are changing, and health sciences librarians are changing to meet their patrons' new information needs.

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