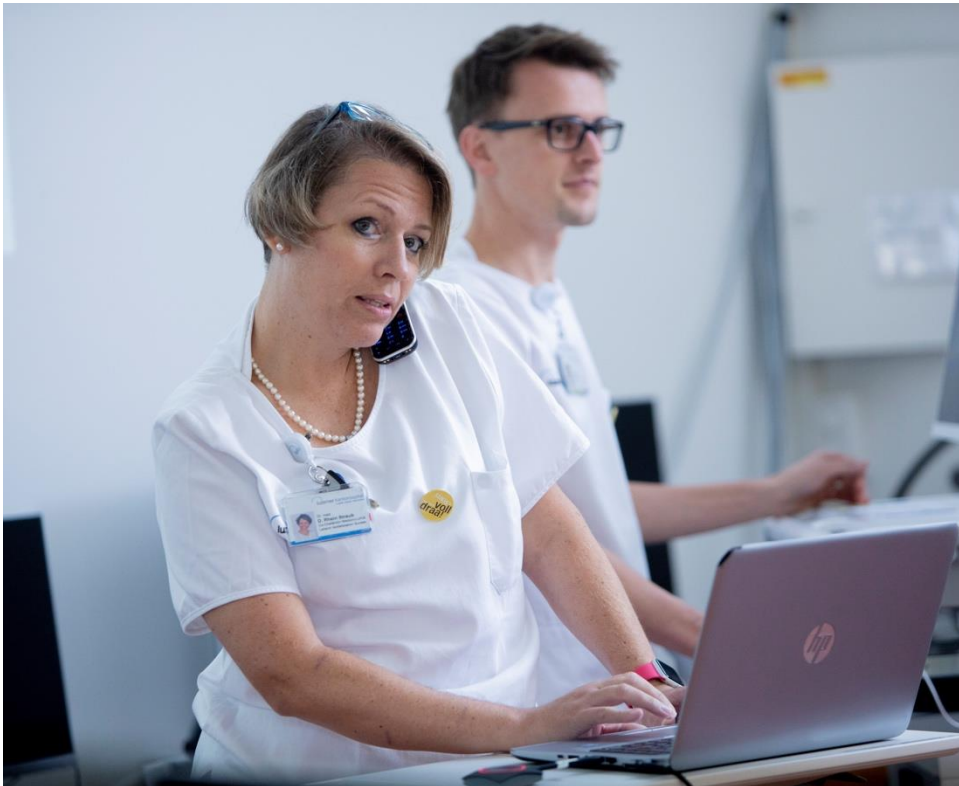


Services for systematic reviews by hospital libraries: A case report from Lucerne Cantonal Hospital



Daniela Maurer, Hospital Librarian
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A particular setting: hospital & «the busy clinician...»

- Interprofessional collaborative setting (doctors, nurses,...)
- Background knowledge in systematic searching?
- Main focus: delivery of «patient-centered» care
- Time is precious
- Any research project is always an add-On (publications,...)
- Conflicting interests limit progress
- Projects have an iterative character
- Progress is rather slow

Demanding circumstances? Yes, but...



The hospital library: not quite like this...



- Institutional libraries for (multi)-site hospitals
- E-library ± “physical library” ± patient library
- Limited human resources: 1-2 part-timers
- Limited budgets vs. “balanced portfolio”
- Investments in content, not “librarian labor force”
- Hospital librarians are generalists (licensing, full text retrieval, library platform maintenance...)
- Customer liaison proves challenging

And then on top of that: “An information specialist - led service model for systematic reviews?”

What is the objective and the bigger picture ?

- "Evidence Based Medicine is the conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individuals patients" (Sackett, 1996).

What skills are needed?

- "Critical appraisal is the process of carefully and systematically examining research to judge its trustworthiness, and its value and relevance in a particular context. It is an essential skill for evidence-based medicine because it allows clinicians to find and use research evidence reliably and efficiently" (Burls, 2009).

“Information literacy & systematic searching are key skills that a hospital library should accommodate for!”

SR process & potential areas for librarian involvement

From protocol registration to SR publication mean duration is about 67 weeks
(Borah et. al. 2017)

Being realistic...what steps benefit most from librarian support?

«Librarians have much to contribute at two particularly important steps: the initial formulation of the research question and the related need to balance breadth and depth, systematicity, and comprehensiveness in developing the database search strategy» (Morris et. al. 2016)

EBM «Hospital Activities» - Not just evidence synthesis projects (SRs...) but also

- *Journal Clubs*
- *Paper of the month*
- *Guideline Setting*
- *Teaching*
- ...

Towards developing a service model for systematic reviews

In our case at Lucerne Cantonal Hospital that meant:

Phase 1 (2018-2020): «where to begin with?»

- «curated link lists», training for bibliographic database or ref manager software, proof reading

Phase 2 (2021/2022): «cautious beginnings»

- 1st inputs for SR review type projects: assistance for database selection, search strategy, scoping searches for clients, exporting search results

Phase 3 (from 2023 to date): «exploring SR support from scratch»

- Supporting evidence synthesis projects from research question to manuscript
- Involving external information specialist (e.g. peer review of search strategy)
- Basic information literacy skills training

Outlook: Review customer feedback for «refining» the service



Possible Scenarios:

- Support SR projects through key stages
- Focus on bottlenecks in SR process
- Systematic searching tool box
- Recommend «validated» tools (AI?) to facilitate laborious tasks
- Adapt skills training to needs of target groups

Benefits from a hospital librarian perspective:

- Strengthen relationships to key target groups
- Enhances visibility
- Being in a better position when discussing E-resources portfolio etc.
- Underpins the need of a library service
- Job enrichment of librarian role
- ...



Thank you for your attention!

