Encouraging Sex and Gender Differences Research and Education at the University of Florida

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Background: Empirical research on health differences between the sexes is growing but can be difficult to identify and locate. With funding from the National Institutes of Health’s Office of Research on Women’s Health and the National Library of Medicine, this project aims to 1) facilitate the growth of basic research in the areas of sex and gender differences in health and women’s health and 2) help develop a diverse clinical workforce able to recognize these differences and apply this knowledge to clinical care. Coordinating with other librarians and faculty across our campus, librarians from the University of Florida Health Science Center Library are presenting students and faculty with information resources on these topics and will provide opportunities for researchers in these areas to meet in order to facilitate research, collaboration and publication on these topics.

Methods: Focusing on sex and gender differences in health, librarians at the University of Florida Health Science Center Library will: 1) present relevant background information and information resources in classes attended by students from undergraduate through post-doctoral studies as well as in professional development workshops for faculty 2) host workshops to facilitate information exchange and collaboration in research on these topics on our campus 3) create, purchase and link information materials on these topics 4) award limited funding for UF authors publishing accepted Open Access articles on these topics 5) Collect data from questionnaires, interviews, focus groups, circulation/web hit counters to evaluate the effectiveness of the project

Results: Planning classes and events has already strengthened health librarians’ connections to librarians elsewhere on campus and to Health Science Center faculty. Student and faculty interactions, comments and suggestions to date indicate some awareness of these issues although the subcontract period has not yet reached the halfway mark.

Conclusions: Leveraging existing collaborations throughout the Health Science Center and the librarians’ respected role as experts in health information, the Health Science Center Library has developed a comprehensive outreach program to facilitate the growth of basic research and clinical/translational research in the area of sex and gender differences and women’s health.

Increasing our Library’s Value with DALRs

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For the past two years, the Maguire Medical Library (MML) has been developing a service for faculty and other researchers who need advanced assistance using a variety of library resources. Because such research projects can involve formulating complex search strategies, searching several library databases in-depth, and collecting, managing and sharing citations, the MML research service uses a team approach to meet researchers’ needs. With a team approach, the time and skills of librarians, researchers in the College of Medicine’s academic departments, and departmental associates for library research (DALRs) embedded within each department complement each other efficiently and effectively.

The poster will describe how the research team concept evolved, and feature examples of project documentation, such as the “job description” for the DALRs. Those viewing this poster will ideally be able to determine if a team approach to library research would be useful in their own work environments.
Libraries for New Medical Schools: The Creation of a Network for Identifying and Supporting the Needs of 21st Century Medical Schools

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As new medical schools are developing, new academic libraries must also be created to support the schools’ missions, faculty, students, and curricula. The formation of a network of these new and emerging academic health sciences libraries is described. In June 2012, the First Symposium on Creating New Academic Health Sciences Libraries was held in Orlando, Florida. Sponsored by the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL), this inaugural Symposium brought together representatives from 16 new schools to discuss planning needed for the LCME process for library services and resources, to discuss experiences and challenges, and to share visions of born digital libraries. Because this is a priority initiative of the AAHSL, the Association will continue to support members of this group by providing information and additional networking opportunities.

The Medical Library's Role in Supporting New Forms of Digital Scholarship

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Libraries, universities, academics, and other groups are increasingly expressing concern that the traditional form of disseminating scholarship is becoming unsustainable. In response to this "scholarly communications crisis" or "serials crisis," many libraries are exploring new tools that can be used to digitally disseminate scholarship efficiently and at minimal cost.

Since 2010, the Florida State University College of Medicine has been involved in exploring digital methods of sharing and distributing the intellectual content of its medical faculty using open access formats. The College first started experimenting with the creation of open educational resources that could be shared among all Florida medical schools using a state-supported online repository called The Orange Grove.

Over the past year, participation in other forms of open access distribution of scholarly content has increased. For example, the College of Medicine worked with the University Library on the development of an institutional repository. With the assistance of the College's Scholarly Communications Librarian, medical faculty publications and posters have been deposited in the repository. Additionally, the College is also exploring software and tools to assist faculty in publishing open access journals electronically. In October 2012, the College of Medicine published its first open access journal using the journals publishing software for the state of Florida called Florida Online Journals. The College of Medicine will continue to explore other methods of digital distribution, such as publishing journals and content via iPad apps in the future.

It is clear that as more federal agencies begin to support free access to research through policies such as the National Institutes of Health Public Access Policy, librarians can play a key role in assisting authors in the depositing of articles to federal or institutional repositories, ensuring that they retain some of their author rights, and choose publishers who support the concept of open access. The scholarly publishing landscape is changing, and librarians can be at the forefront of this change.

How Do OA Journals Measure UP? 2011 Impact Factors of the Top 10 Journals in 4 Biomed Disciplines

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Biology, Genetics, Emergency Medicine and Medicine (General and Internal) are four biomedical subject categories offered in the 2011 edition of the JCR (Journal Citation Reports) database. The top ten journals in each of these disciplines were selected and their impact factors captured in an Excel spreadsheet. Each title was checked in Directory of Open Access Journals or SHERPA/RoMEO for its Open Access status. In three of the subject categories, two of the top ten journals are Open Access. In the fourth subject category (Genetics), only one of the top ten journals is Open Access.