



Interdisciplinary and Inter-institutional Collaborations: Opportunities and Challenges

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Collaborate, Collaborate, Collaborate!

- ↑ Translational Science initiatives
- ↑ Researcher networking tools
- ↑ Interprofessional education in medical & health science colleges
- ↑ Speed of communication in the electronic age
- ↑ Emphasis on evaluating research impact
- ↑ Competition for limited grant funding
- ↑ Volume of information → evidence-based synthesis of research data
- ↑ Emphasis on community outreach & consumer health education

Librarians are perfectly positioned to become central to the function of interdisciplinary and collaborative research, education, and practice!

Examples of Recent Projects

UF Health Science Center Libraries

- Medical Education Systematic Review
- Medical Education Book Chapter
- IMMS Clinic Project
- Genetics Student Education
- Women's Health Outreach Project
- Data Collaboration



Project 1: Medical Education Systematic Review

Collaboration on an invited systematic review article:

Hammoud MM, Morgan HK, Edwards ME, Lyon JA, White C. Is video review of patient encounters an effective tool for medical student learning? A review of the literature. *Advances in Medical Education and Practice* 2012 Mar; 3: 19-30.

- [Open Access Publication](#)
- 2,569 views as of 4/24/2013

Project 1: Medical Education Systematic Review

	MH - Medical Educator/MD (1 st author) UM	HM - Medical Educator/MD (2 nd author) UM	ME - HSC Librarian (3 rd author) UF	JL - HSC Librarian (4 th author) UF	CW - Medical Educator/PhD (senior author) UF/UVA
Invited collaboration	X Invited HM & CW				X Invited ME & JL
Study/manuscript lead	X (primary)				X (secondary)
Weekly phone conference	X (lead)	x	x	x	x
Criteria for literature search	x	x	x	x	x
Literature search		x	x		
Review literature found	x	x	x	x	x
Determine inclusion in study	x				x
Draft introduction	X (secondary)				x (primary)
Draft Methods			x	x	
Draft Results	X (secondary)	X (primary)			x (secondary)
Draft Discussion	x				x
Combine sections for full draft	X (primary)				x (secondary)
Review/edit draft	x	x	x	x	X
Finalize manuscript	x				x





Project 1: Med Ed Sys Review

Opportunities

- Development of professional relationships
- Demonstrate librarian expertise
- Participate in all phases of the systematic review including authorship
- Led to involvement in another project

Challenges

- Planning and coordination; scheduling lengthy conference calls
- Sharing access to full-text articles between five people at two institutions
- Melding writing styles and perspectives
- Tracking drafts and revisions
- Managing citations



● *“My experience working with librarians on an educational research project was phenomenal. They have superb skills in important areas like applying specific and relevant criteria to literature searching and assessing, and describing the comprehensive yet detailed methods they apply to educational research projects. I was so impressed with their work that once our review/research manuscript was done, I invited them to collaborate on a book chapter. They are a wonderful resource in health sciences education.”*

Dr. Casey White, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Medical Education,
Research and Instruction
University of Virginia School of Medicine

Project 2: Med Ed Book Chapter

Collaborative writing of an invited book chapter:

White C, Cooper LA, Edwards ME, Lyon JA.
Assessing Learning Needs (Chpt 39) in The
Oxford Textbook of Medical Education. Oxford
University Press. (*in press, April, 2013*)

Project 2: Med Ed Book Chapter

Opportunities

- Librarians invited due to previous success
- Positive recognition of librarians' knowledge in medical education
- Acquisition of more knowledge by librarians
- Potential for future collaborative projects
- Importance of maintaining positive professional relationships

Challenges

- First author moved from UF to UVA during start of project
- Coordinating responsibilities
- Utilizing multiple communication methods
- Melding writing styles
- Tracking drafts and revisions
- Managing citations



Project 3: IMMS Clinic Project

“Influencing Patient-Provider Communication And Promoting Patient Self Advocacy”

Collaborating with an Internal Medicine faculty physician, a medical librarian attended university outpatient clinics in internal medicine and medical specialties (IMMS) to assist patients in finding health information and clarifying questions to ask their doctors.

- Support from clinic administration, staff and nurses is vital
- Two grants
 - NN/LM SEA outreach award-funded project
 - Gatorade Foundation via UF Department of Medicine

See Linda Butson’s presentation tomorrow in the 10:30am paper session here at MLA!



Project 3: IMMS Clinic Project

Opportunities

- The collaborating physician has promoted the project and library collaboration in multiple venues
 - Inviting librarians to meetings and presentations
 - Involving the librarian in a student mentoring project
 - Involving the librarian in teaching a Medical School class
- Library received salary support funds & mobile technology equipment
- Future grant opportunities
- Valuable experience & contacts

Challenges

- Patients recruitment in clinic waiting room
- IRB approval can be long and intense process.
- It always takes more time than initially expected

“Librarians contribute expertise and a unique perspective as members of the interdisciplinary team... Her role was critical in this work being presented in several venues and being submitted for publication. Thank you!”

Dr. Rebecca Pauly, MD, FACEP

Associate Vice President for Health Affairs, Equity and Diversity

Health Science Center

University of Florida



Project 4: Genetics Student Education

A librarian collaborated with an academic faculty member from the Department of Biology to enhance an undergraduate genetics class and term project.

- Librarian participates in teaching and grading
- Librarian and Professor co-develop a final term project
 - Students collaborate in small groups
 - Students create and defend a poster on a genetic disease
 - Poster session held publicly in library
- A second librarian with knowledge in educational theory included during publication stage



Project 4: Genetics Student Education

Opportunities

- Successful embedding of a librarian in the academic classroom
- Open to bringing in missing expertise
- Changes evaluated with flexible attitudes
- Collaboration emphasized as necessary to teaching and learning
- Increased visibility for the library through hosting poster session

Challenges

- Flexibility; recognizing need to change traditional practice
- Changing practice without compromising students' learning
- Willingness to address lack of knowledge in specialized area
- University-level instructional requirements may slow change

Project 5: Women's Health Outreach

Funded by the National Library of Medicine/Office of Research on Women's Health, this project's goals are to increase research in sex and gender differences in health and basic sciences and to facilitate the growth of a well-trained, diverse, and vigorous women's health research workforce.

Five librarians working with multiple partners:

The Department of Biology; The Graduate Program in Genetics & Genomics; The College of Medicine PhD Program; The Center for Women's and Gender Studies; The Clinical and Translational Science Institute; Medical Students

Project Components:

- Relevant expansion of the HSCL's collection
- Numerous educational activities
- Demoing an online Women's Health Research Portal
- Sponsoring CoLABs ('speed-dating for researchers')
- Women's Health-designated Open Access Publishing Funds





Project 5: Women's Health Outreach

Opportunities

- Develop long-term and strong professional relationships with collaborators throughout the university
- Foster the recognition of librarians as partners rather than as service providers
- Demonstrate librarians' ability to bring researchers and clinicians from a variety of disciplines together
- Show value of librarians as partners in high-profile, successfully grant-funded collaborative projects

Challenges

- Short turnaround time to find collaborators and write grant proposal
- Coordination of multiple activities and widely-varied collaborators
- Identifying and communicating roles to all participants





Project 6: Data Collaboration

A meeting with UF's Director of Research Computing led to multiple opportunities.

- HSCL Librarians serving on Data Life Cycle Subcommittee of the Research Computing Advisory Committee
- Library-wide Data Management/Curation Task Force created including
 - HSCL Librarian (co-chair)
 - Digital Humanities Librarian (co-chair)
 - Director of Research Computing
- Invited presentations by Librarians on Research Computing Day

See Hannah Norton's presentation tomorrow in the 3:00pm paper session here at MLA!





Project 6: Data Collaboration

Opportunities

- Incidental encounters or meetings can lead to true partnerships when shared interests are discovered.
- Participating on other disciplines' committees can help librarians learn more about their specialized terminology and how they think about shared problems.
- Bringing non-library-based faculty into a team of librarians may bring a wealth of new knowledge and creative ideas.

Challenges

- As collaborative projects grow, it may be challenging to know who will contribute most by being added to the team.
- As the group increases the number of its members, it may become slower in terms of decision making

● *“The librarian is the one of the most resourceful
● consultants that an academician can use when
● constructing research. In order to provide my
peers and the scientific community with robust
material, I often use our librarian to ensure that
I deliver robust and contemporary material.”*

Dr. Marie-Carmelle Elie, MD, RDMS FACEP
Department of Emergency Medicine
University of Florida

Things We've Learned

- Treasure your professional relationships
- Seize any chance to be “at the table”
- Librarians meet lots of people → play ‘matchmaker’
- Don’t be limited by traditional librarian roles
- Communicate effectively and often
- Know your priorities → choose wisely
- Be organized
- Consult and involve library colleagues
- Don’t worry if some projects fall through the cracks
- Don’t be afraid to try something new
- Other professionals are excited to be asked to co-author library profession-focused presentations and papers!!





During A Project

- Plan at the start; define expectations, goals, roles
- Make and keep deadlines; likely YOU will facilitate
- Have regular meetings/calls
- Don't rely on email alone, use phone and meetings, but...
- Take advantage of new technologies for sharing documents and communicating over distances
- Involve others, seek their expertise and *express appreciation*, but...
- Don't make the group too big; vary levels of involvement
- Expect it to take more time than predicted



Thank You!

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¹UF Health Science Center Libraries, ²University of Florida Genetics Institute, ³University of Virginia School of Medicine

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