Systematic Reviews and the Evolving Role of Librarians

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THE PROCESS OF A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Create Team  Identify Question  Search  Evaluate  Extract  Analyze

FACULTY COMMENTS

"Thanks for being proactive. Please let me know if you wish to discuss this at future SPHHS faculty meetings."

"Help of a librarian is essential in these projects in my opinion."

"I see Library Liaisons as essential members of the research team for scoping and systematic reviews. My policy would be to include them as co-authors with the expectation that they would oversee the methodological development of the review and the initial data collection."

ABSTRACT

The demand for systematic reviews (SR) in research-intensive health-related departments is rapidly increasing, and academic librarians have the expertise necessary to support these comprehensive reviews. In summer 2013, three University of Waterloo health librarians surveyed faculty on their current and future systematic review work. Through this process, we determined researcher expectations of librarian support and identified multiple ways to meet their needs. Our poster illustrates possible librarian roles in the systematic review process, and how our expertise can be used towards knowledge creation.

FINDINGS

Survey results provided positive indicators, making the case for librarians to become active partners in systematic review research. Quantitative and qualitative data revealed strong faculty support.

Question: If you were to author/co-author a systematic review, who would you include in your research team?

75% Faculty
69% Liaison Librarians
62% PhD Students
59% Master’s
56% Experts
50% Research Assistants
42% Undergrads
34% Post Docs
22% Others
3% Other

Question: If you looked to a liaison librarian for systematic review support, what level of support would be ideal?

72% Provide instruction on how to search relevant databases more effectively
50% Create and conduct literature searches
34% Introduce me or my team to the systematic review process
31% Refresh me or my team on the systematic review process

CURRENT DIRECTIONS

Subject Guide
- Finding Systematic Reviews
- Cochrane Library Health Evidence
- PUBMED filters
- Conducting a Systematic Review
- Cochrane Handbook PRISMA
- CRD’s Guidelines
- Instructing Graduate Students on: Systematic reviews Scoping reviews Literature reviews

Draft Protocol
- Ensure librarians’ understanding of scope and topic
- Ensure researchers’ understanding of systematic review process
- Determine clear, concise research question
- Define inclusion and exclusion criteria
- Identify process to aggregate literature
- Discuss expectations of librarian’s involvement

We would like to hear from you!
Please let us know about your work with Systematic Reviews and let’s start sharing our information.
Contact Shannon Gordon, shannon.gordon@uwaterloo.ca; Rebecca Hutchinson r3hutchinson@uwaterloo.ca; or Marian Davies, marian.davies@uwaterloo.ca, and let’s talk!