

# Building a Clinical Librarian Program

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# Introduction

- Environments
- Needs Assessments
- Planning
- Procedures
- Searches
- Classes
- Evaluations

# Environments

- Preston Medical Library, Knoxville, TN
  - Population of city: 173,890 (metro area: 687,249)
  - Adjacent to University of Tennessee Medical Center, a 600 bed institution
  - Library serves Graduate School of Medicine and hospital
  - Public hospital—serves 24 county region in TN, VA, NC, and KY



# Environments

- ETSU College of Medicine Library, Johnson City, TN
  - Population: 55,000
  - Emphasis on primary care
  - US News rankings
    - 17/117- primary care
    - 3/117- rural medicine
  - 4 teaching hospitals in 3 cities, 2 adjacent to campus



# Needs Assessments

- Preston: done before librarian's arrival at the library
  - Discuss with Associate Dean to determine best focus of service
  - Already had close relationship with Family Practice, need outreach to Ob/Gyn
  - Librarian preparation: Literature review and attendance at Informationist Conference in April, 2002



# Needs Assessments

- ETSU:
  - Noon conferences done for Family Medicine residents including EBM instruction
  - Residency director requested training program for residents
  - Librarian prepared by attending UVA InfoMastery workshop
  - Program put together with residency director and librarian. Used for librarian's internship requirements for Ed.D



# Planning

- Meeting with physicians
  - Discuss program
  - Set schedule
- Setting limits
  - Turnaround time
  - Number of days per week

# Procedures

- Preston: Emphasis on morning report
  - Monday: Oral Surgery morning report
  - Tuesday: Gynecology morning report, Family Practice morning report
  - Wednesday: Obstetrics morning report
  - Friday: Ob/Gyn Grand Rounds
- ETSU: Family Practice focus
  - Tuesday: Family Practice morning report
  - Thursday: Family Practice morning report

# Searches

- Types of searches:
  - Primarily patient care (patients currently in the hospital)
  - In support of new treatments or news report
  - Resident research projects
  - Education

# Classes

- Preston
  - PDA consultations
  - Grand Rounds presentation for Ob/Gyn
- ETSU
  - Orientation of hospital library with hospital librarian
  - EBM
  - Databases: Cochrane & InfoRetriever



# Evaluations

- Preston—Spring Survey (2 questions)
  - Does this information directly impact how you care for your patients?—100% answered “yes”
  - Would you have requested information from the library on this topic if a librarian was not present at morning report?—88% answered “no”
  - Informal comments were always positive

# Evaluations

- ETSU
  - Short survey using questions of Rochester study
  - Evaluation of librarian by faculty attending physicians—short answer questions
  - Overall rating of service: 4.3 out of 5

# Conclusions

- Clinical librarianship doable in a small rural medical school setting as well as urban setting
- Librarian will likely have to do it on top of other responsibilities
- Flexibility necessary!
- Very satisfying—see exactly how librarians can impact patient care

# Conclusions

- Urban vs. Rural settings
  - Primary difference is type of questions
  - Even that wasn't very different—each librarian mostly received patient care questions
- Distinction
  - Preston had more education and research questions, possibly because of more research being conducted at the institution

# Contact Information

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