



Chapter Council Presents Sharing Roundtables

MLA Annual Meeting

Chicago IL

Sunday, May 18, 2008

Final Report

Table 23a: New & Emerging Roles for Medical Librarians

Participants: Anne Linton (facilitator), Katie Prentice (recorder), Emily Vardell, Patricia Ulmer, Eva Perkins, Andrea Lynch, Gail Langer, Lisa Fried

Discussion:

In which areas are we seeking new/improved roles?

- relevancy to our institutions
- public health
- our careers
- collaboration
- new ideas for our positions

Education issues:

- At the table the newest librarians did not have a consistent background in medical librarianship (range from one newer librarian with no specific coursework to another with a medical track through graduate school)
- Non-traditional coursework included: marketing, technology, digital design

New roles identified:

- technical services – taxonomy support
- knowledge management
- digital repository management/support
- campus/institution creation of database of conference attendees
- web usability
- database of campus/institution areas of expertise
- new technology leadership

Important technologies identified to help make personal connections:

- Instant message (definition: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instant_message)
- Flickr (www.flickr.com) – photo sharing, show the face and personality of library
- Other 2.0 networking sites, such as Facebook or MySpace or LinkedIn

Ideas:

- invite RN colleagues or other faculty to next MLA conference
- pilot project to have hospital doctors write consult orders for health information
- market and build awareness of medical librarian skills
- prepare elevator pitch on library relevancy/importance
- participate in campus/institution committees such as clinical practice committee to provide support for guidelines, protocols and procedures
- Institutional Review Board participation/support
- CTSA (<http://www.ctsaweb.org/>)
- Work with researchers/grant writers to include budget line items for ILL or document delivery
- Get involved with intellectual property and open access
 - NIH/Public Access (<http://publicaccess.nih.gov/>)

Public Health:

- support research
- outreach with pharmacists and dental hygienists
- work with disaster preparedness
- see how MPH people can work with library
- support schools of public health
 - consider collection
 - electronic resources
 - find funding
 - become aware of data sets
 - National Center for Health Statistics <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>
 - states have centers for health statistics too

Take away points:

- learn more
- collaborate more
- get active in health literacy
- be involved
- try new ideas