FPIN: Family Physicians Inquiries Network

A Model for Author Support through Collaboration

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“Medical information is not simply a resource to be stored and treasured but a living, dynamic force. Libraries and librarians therefore need to re-define themselves and their roles accordingly; if they do, they will flourish.”

Frank Davidoff, MD
Family Practice Inquiries Network (FPIN) @ www.fpin.org

- National Consortium of family medicine residency programs, with physician and librarian partners (7,70,120)
- Create evidence-based answers to actual clinical questions of primary care clinicians
- Define relevant topics for clinical research
- Develop partnerships with EBM-focused information service providers and professional organizations
- Publish in consistent journals and information products
- Consortium owns its intellectual property
Clinical Inquiries

- Published in *Journal of Family Practice* and *American Family Physician*
- Physician and Librarian are co-authors
- Over 600 have been published, with 200 more in process
- *Evidence Based Practice Newsletter* publishes spin-off’s: Help Desk Answers and Patient Information
- PURLs and e-MedRef newer publication types
FPIN Librarian Community

- Started with three librarians at MU in 2000
- NN/LM grant funded development
- Now numbers about 100, with members in 21 states
- Established standardized search routines, processes, and a unique reporting system
- Organizational structure includes a VP on FPIN Board, mentor groups, and Librarian Team that e-meets monthly
Clinical Inquiries | Database Search Protocol

First Tier (required):

1. Clinical Evidence, electronic or print
2. Cochrane Library (or equivalent) - Database of Systematic Reviews
3. Bandolier
4. National Guideline Clearinghouse
5. MEDLINE (if using OVID as a search engine for MEDLINE, consider including OVID Medline Daily Update)
6. MEDLINE In-Process (formerly PreMedline) (if using OVID, also search Current Contents and PreMedline as a simultaneous search.)

Second Tier (per searcher's discretion):

7. Cochrane Controlled Trials Register
8. InfoRetriever/InfoPOEMS
9. Dynamed
10. Revised MEDLINE search with additional years or parameters as agreed upon by authors

If access to ACP Journal Club, EBM Reviews Online or InfoPoems is not available, the librarian should notify the author that these resources have not been searched; it will be up to the author to decide whether to search these resources himself/herself.

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Clinical Inquiries I Recommended Search Hedges

**OVID MEDLINE-Therapy Hedge**

1. meta analysis.pt. or (meta analy*$ or metaanaly*$).tw. or systematic review$.tw. or (published studies or medline or embase or data synthesis or data extraction).ab. or cochrane.tw.

2. randomized controlled trial.pt. or random$.tw.

3. (clinical trial or clinical trial. phase I or clinical trial. phase II or clinical trial. phase III or clinical trial. phase IV or controlled clinical trial or multicenter study).pt. or (double adj2 blind$) or trial$ or multicenter or multicenter or multi center or multi centro or placebo.tw.tw.

4. exp clinical trials/

5. (guideline or practice guideline or consensus development conference or consensus development conference, nh).pt. or (guideline$ or consensus).twmeye.

6. exp treatment outcome or (outcome$ or evidence based).tw.*

*Search Tips—limit to Ovid EBM reviews; consider limiting to reviews.pt. if no evidence-based material is found.

**OVID MEDLINE-Diagnostic Hedge**
FPIN Search Report

- Report by level of evidence, with highest evidence grade studies first
- Report in layers, with lowest level of evidence last
- Clearly mark the groups of citations for the clinical co-author
- Offer to tailor further to meet the need
With appreciation to:

- Susan Meadows, Librarian for the MU School of Medicine Family & Community Medicine Department
- Joan Nashelsky, Librarian Editor for the Clinical Inquiries and FPIN Consortium Staff
- Tonya Wolff, FPIN Executive Director
- Bernard Ewigman, FPIN Founder
“If you come to a fork in the road, take it.”

-- Yogi Berra

…the librarian as change agent in the academic culture
Vision

- Your view of the future combined with thinking outside the box
- Effective communication & networking with individuals known for innovation
- Shared vision with a realistic plan
- Push the idea of the library as integral to success of the project
How do you evaluate the potential for a shared vision that emerges from a conversation?

How can you create a partnership that is a good deal for your library or for librarianship as a profession?

How does this relate to best practices in traditional libraries?
“In theory there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice there is.”

-- Yogi Berra

the nuts ‘n bolts of creating change…
Team Building

- Common understandings
- Mutual experience
- Trust
- Timing
- Passing the ball
- Accountability
- Shared rewards
- Learn from the experts (Riley, Pitino, others)
Roadworthy Teamwork

- How can I get people to work together at a high level of cooperation?

- How do I maintain focus on the goal with so many competing priorities for time and money?

- How do I ensure that the library will benefit from the effort?

- How do we engage with one another so that we achieve our goals and everyone wins?
Strategies for building partnerships

- Careful use of library lingo
- Surprise them by using skills they don’t expect you to have
- Think and talk about the big common goal
- Help non-librarians understand how the library is a strategic asset for the project; demystify information storage and retrieval so that it is seen as achievable
- Establish trust and rapport
- Swap insights into respective professional cultures
Roadworthy partnerships

- Common goals, even if expressed in different terms
- Shared excitement
- Mutual respect
- Compatible work styles
- Everyone brings something to the table
- Written partnership agreement
“You gotta be careful if you don’t know where you’re going, ‘cause you might not get there.”

-- Yogi Berra
Strategic Planning

- SWOT Analysis
- Group visioning
- Practical approach
- Goals and objectives
- Adapt to change
- Use proven tools
- Evaluation and improvement cycle
Negotiating

- Identify what you want
- Identify needed change
- Seek areas of mutual understanding
- Increase understanding where needed
- Use terms the other can relate to, understand, and accept
- Be willing to compromise
Negotiating: the practical…

- Establish your place at the table
- Develop your list of alternatives and priorities
- Be patient and persistent; explicit and direct
- Keep mutual goals in the forefront
Transformation requires:

- Individual risk-taking and growth
- Communication & trust
- Teamwork & cooperation
- Training, new knowledge, new skills
- Dimensions of empowerment: competence & self-determination
- Hard work
- Luck!
Take home points for “getting the show on the road”…

- Get a good roadmap
  - Learn and practice the fundamentals to get you to the right vicinity

- Find an expert travel guide
  - A mentor can make all the difference

- Pack a flashlight for the dark path
  - Scrutinize and evaluate your vision
Getting there

- Don’t go it alone
  - Collaborate like Lewis and Clark to forge a path that can become a highway

- Explore the terrain off the beaten path – don’t miss the scenic views
  - Identify initiatives where information services rightfully belong

- Build bridges of common interest with potential partners
  - Apply your library skills to add value to scholarly projects
Are we there yet?

- Practice leadership and follower-ship
  - Mix of firmness, flexibility, & team play

- Stake your claim
  - Invest your time and talent for worthwhile goals

- Rub the right 2 sticks together to spark the desired outcome
  - Avoid forest fires by careful pacing, deliberate action, and thoughtful evaluation
Transformation of the scholarly communication culture will require teamwork and collaboration across disciplines.

The successful team leans intentionally into change, using carefully developed strategies.

The librarian is an important member of that team.

YOU should be part of the action!
“The future ain’t what it used to be.”

--Yogi Berra

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“The future is better than ever!”

--Deb Ward

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