Identifying and Addressing Publishing and Presenting Barriers: A Discussion Between New and Seasoned Librarians

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Objectives
What do you think the biggest barrier is for librarians who want to present or publish?
### Inhibiting Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Time</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Encouraged</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Funds</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Mentor</td>
<td>57</td>
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What factors contribute to or inhibit publishing among medical librarians

Skye Bickett, MLIS, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Georgia Campus; Christine Willis, MLIS, Shepherd Center; & Melissa Wright, MLIS, Ph. D., Rowland Medical Library, University of Mississippi Medical Center

Objective
To discover what factors influence librarians to publish or present their work. The study aims to determine what type of publications and presentations are most prevalent, what external factors impact the decision to publish or present, what internal factors affect the decision, and why one chooses to do one rather than the other or both.

Methodology
Data were collected using an electronic questionnaire sent to various listservs, including the Medical Library Association, Special Libraries Association, Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries, and regional MLA chapters. The questionnaire was developed by the researchers and it consisted of both quantitative and qualitative items.

Participants were 209 health sciences librarians from across the United States. However, three sets of questions regarding presentations of research caused confusion among many of the participants and the number of poster vs. paper presentations did not match their total number of presentations. Only the 102 participants whose responses were correctly matched were included in that part of the analysis.

Factors affecting publication of journal articles were analyzed using multiple regression. A combination of descriptive statistics and axial coding were used to determine factors influencing and inhibiting publication and presentation of research.

Participant summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Factors that influence librarians

The most common factors that contribute to publication or presentation of research are:
- an interest in conducting research,
- encouragement from a colleague or supervisor,
- resume enhancement,
- interest in learning new information.

The most common factors that inhibit publication or presentation of research are:
- not enough time,
- not encouraged to do so by colleague or supervisor,
- no mentor to assist with the process,
- a lack of travel funds.

Suggestions
- Be a mentor
- Promote the benefits of presenting/publishing
- Encourage resume building
- Add a research project to your job description

What motivates you to research? What holds you back? Tell us here.

Who is most likely to publish?
A librarian in a tenure track position, having publications as a job requirement, and a greater number of years in the profession.

Conclusion
In order to promote publishing and presenting library schools, managers, and those who have been in the field for several years should introduce new librarians to research through encouragement and mentorship. Incorporating one or more of the following suggestions can encourage more librarians to become interested in conducting research and disseminating the knowledge they gain, thus increasing the knowledge-base of our profession.

Suggested Readings
1. Henry E.A., Handwerk B., Publication use of citations and contact information & method: top journals in seven subject areas.
2. Drozd B., The 2016 Journal Citation Reports: an analysis of the top journals in seven subject areas
3. Lavoie RJ. The role of the library in promoting the development of narrative-based research in health care.
4. Nicholas J. Writing your first scholarly article: a guide to helping students, librarians, and other interested persons.

1. Time
2. Skills
3. Funding
4. Topic
5. Value

3. Evidence
3. Fear
3. Motivation
4. Mentor
4. Support
Influencing Factors

- Interested in Research: 153
- To Learn New Info: 92
- Encouragement: 92
- Resume Enhancement: 47
BREAKOUT Session
What do you think the 3 biggest barriers are for your year group?
Years 1-5

- Publishing
  - Time
  - Not Encouraged
- Presenting
  - Time
  - Lack of Funds
  - Not Interested, Not Encouraged, No Mentor
- Lack of Funds
Years 6-10

**Publishing**
- Time
- Not Encouraged
- No Mentor

**Presenting**
- Time
- Not Encouraged & No Mentor
- Lack of Funds
Years 11-15

Publishing
Time
Not Encouraged
Not Interested

Presenting
Time
Not Encouraged
Not Interested
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years 16-20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publishing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Not Encouraged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Mentor &amp; Lack of Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Interested &amp; Not required for tenure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Years >20

Publishing
- Time
  - Not encouraged
- No mentor

Presenting
- Time
  - Not encouraged & Lack of funds
- Not interested
Librarian – What can you add to your job description or annual goals? Write at least one practical idea that will help you professionally.

Supervisor – How can you bring up this topic in annual reviews to help your employees accomplish this goal in their career?
Conclusion & Implications
New librarians
Add presenting and/or publishing to workflow

Experienced Librarians and Supervisors
Encourage and mentor
Add presenting and/or publishing to workflow

Institutions
Support
Why?

New & Experienced Librarians and Supervisors
Enhance professional capabilities
Enhance resume
Share knowledge

Institutions
More research
Potential grant/award monies
What’s next?

SCMLA mentors
GHSLA posters
State research day – join with AHSLC, GHSLA, GaIN
Recommendation to MLA and SCMLA research committees/sections
Funding & Awards
Free online tools for research
Tips and Suggested Readings - [http://dft.ba/-GHSLA14](http://dft.ba/-GHSLA14)

What do you think should be the next move?
Contact Information

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Thank you!