

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

Skye Bickett, MLIS, AHIP, GA-PCOM

Christine Willis, MLIS, Shepherd Center

Objectives



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





Lack of Time

128

Not Encouraged

72

Lack of Funds

61

No Mentor

57



Inhibiting Factors

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.

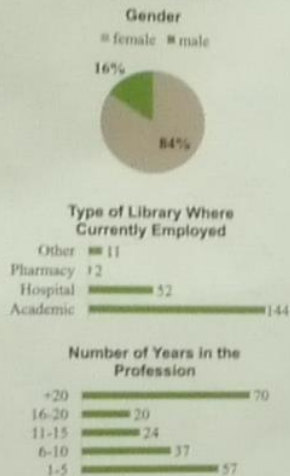
Methodology

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



Results

- Preferred publishing or presenting equally at 50.8%
- Preference for quantitative research over qualitative or mixed methodology
- Equal mix of peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed publishing
- Research presented at all conference levels – local, regional, and national
- Most of presentations were in poster format

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.

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.

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.

Suggested Readings



- Harvey AA, Rappaport JB. Publication rate of abstracts of papers and posters presented at medical library association annual meetings. *J Med Libr Assoc* 2004; 102(4):338-4.
- Kramer JL, Ciolek LA. Beliefs, attitudes and perceptions about research and practice in a professional field. *Library & Information Science Research* 2004; 18(1):49-57.
- Lambert AB. The importance of encouraging librarians to publish in peer-reviewed publications. *Journal of Scholarly Publishing* 2012; 43(2):139.
- Schubert S. Writing your first scholarly article: A guide for building authors in librarianship. *Information Technology & Libraries* 2008; 28(2):108-11.



1. Time

2. Skills

2. Funding

2. Topic

2. Value

3. Evidence

3. Fear

3. Motivation

4. Mentor

4. Support



Interested in Research

153

To Learn New Info

92

Encouragement

92

Resume Enhancement

47

Influencing Factors



BREAKOUT

Session

What do you think the 3
biggest barriers are for your
year group?



Years 1-5

Publishing

Time

Not Encouraged

Lack of Funds

Presenting

Time

Lack of Funds

Not Interested, Not
Encouraged, No Mentor

SCHOOL OF WITCHCRAFT AND WIZARDRY

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



Years 16-20

Publishing

Time & Not Encouraged

No Mentor & Lack of Funds

Not Interested & Not
required for tenure

Presenting

Time

Not Encouraged & No Mentor

Not Interested, Lack of Funds,
Not required for tenure, Not
sure of the process

Slytherin

Years >20

Publishing

Time

Not encouraged

No mentor

Presenting

Time

Not encouraged & Lack of funds

Not interested





BREAKOUT

Session

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 AHS LC, GHSLA, GaIN

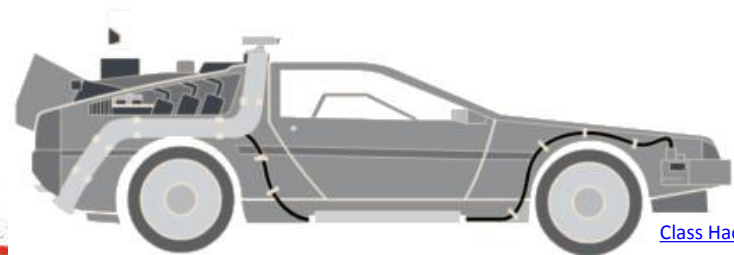
Recommendation to MLA and SCMLA research committees/sections

Funding & Awards

Free online tools for research

Tips and Suggested Readings - <http://dft.ba/-GHSLA14>

What do you think should be the next move?



TWENTY QUESTIONS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20



DICK

HERB

VAN

FLORENCE

ALDO RAY

Contact Information

Skye Bickett – skyebi@pcom.edu

Christine Willis – christine_willis@shepherd.org



Thank you!