Clinical Librarianship in Brazil: a pilot study in Celso Pierro Hospital

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Building the Brazilian Bridge?

Clinical librarian

Physician
Building the Brazilian Bridge

• *Building the Brazilian Bridge* (BBB)
  – ongoing Project since 2005
  – successful collaboration: researchers from UK and Brazil
  – to develop the concept of Clinical Librarianship (CL) in General Hospitals in São Paulo State
  – pilot scheme in a University Teaching Hospital
  – multifaceted project that requires various actions at short and medium terms
Objective

To develop a pilot project to establish a clinical librarianship service for the University Teaching Hospital at PUC-Campinas (Celso Pierro Hospital)
Method

• Participants of pilot study in the University Teaching Hospital
  – academics
  – medical librarians and clinical members
  – doctors and surgeons (Orthopaedics Department)

• Two aspects of BBB project were addressed by different methodologies
Aspects addressed in this step

Training and Education of Librarians

- One day workshop held in 2008
- Participants completed a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the workshop
- Participants were drawn from 32 professional staff
- 15 professionals attended the workshop (7 health librarians)
Aspects addressed in this step

Practical Experiences of the CL Pilot Scheme

- June 2008: a professional Librarian began working with the Orthopaedic team at the University Hospital
- A qualitative approach gathered his opinion of the pilot service to date
BBB: completed actions

- Research proposal ready to be sent to the University’s Ethics Committee
- Orthopaedics medical team (5 teaching staff, 40 clinicians, 15 resident doctors) identified - one librarian has joined the group in June 2008
- Pilot Scheme with professional librarian is going well and according to plan
- One-day workshop on electronic databases search strategies organized to inform university librarians
- Project encouraged 2 undergraduate library students to work on this subject in their final year project
Workshop evaluation results

– medical research designs (randomized controlled trial, cohort study, cross-over study) are not familiar to them

– some specific terms (systematic review of literature, EBM) are known

– they are not aware of the meaning of ‘critical appraisal’

– subjects feel uncomfortable and not professionally prepared to work with health teams searching the best scientific evidence

– worries of not being welcomed by medical teams and not being seen professionally as peers
Workshop evaluation results

- Feeling of not being ready for working in a hospital

- they realize the difference between information requested by physicians for clinical purposes from information needed by teaching staff

- knowledge on how to use the main health and medical databases

- recognize ongoing training need for further instruction on search strategies

- only one subject is willing to work with clinicians at PUC Hospital
Clinical Librarian (Pilot)

- information searches
  - e-bibliographic searches in national and international health databases (referential and full-text)
  - scientific publishing monitoring
  - selective dissemination of information

- frequently used databases
  - LILACS, MEDLINE, Cochrane Library, SciELO, HomeoIndex, Leyes, MedCaribe, Repidisca, PAHO, WHOLIS, PubMed; Evidence Based Medicine; Ebase, ISI Web of Knowledge
Clinical Librarian (Pilot)

• **Contribution to the production of research output:**
  – editing and assisting in the writing of papers
  – developing methodological approaches, adding in clinical cases and systematic reviews
  – citing relevant literature such as clinical cases and systematic reviews
  – advising on the correct style of referencing (Vancouver)

• **Familiarity with concepts:** Evidence Based Medicine, randomized controlled trials, cohort study, case-control studies, Cochrane Library, systematic review

• **Critical appraisal** is considered as a set of procedures necessary to assess the quality of a scientific paper under three essential aspects: internal relevance, external relevance, and statistical method
Clinical Librarian (Pilot)

• **Autonomy** of working within the Orthopaedics Department
  – ability to contribute to the team and confidence in the actions;
  – great support from the Director to make decisions;
  – respect and value from the clinicians

• **Differences** between information requested by clinician (for clinical practice) from the one requested by a member of teaching staff
  – doctor needs precise, concise and effective information, demanding from the librarian quickness, synthesis and attention to the search
  – information for lecturing staff is normally used in own research and in the formulation of theoretical and critical thinking about his own field of work, not for patient care
Clinical Librarian (Pilot)

• Competencies, knowledge and abilities acquired:
  – undergraduate course on library studies “opened the eyes” for that professional practice
  – theoretical and practical basis allowed him to reflect on the necessary competencies to progress to distinct and specialized information needs

• Competencies came mostly from practical experience and field work in various institutions

• Permanent professional upgrading is responsible for the foundations to his present activities
Discussion

• Olivieri (2004): most clinicians lack knowledge of essential terms of EBM (related to biostatistics and epidemiology)
  – this echoes the findings from both Orthopaedics and the librarians

• The use of electronic databases is an educational area for both librarians and clinicians
  – Martínez-Silveira (2005): textbooks, colleagues and scientific journals are the most used information sources, while electronic databases are barely cited
  – the Cochrane Library, the main known source of evidence in medicine, is the least used information source by these health professionals

• Clinicians were formerly taught to look to authority to solve patient management issues, they should embrace EBM as a principle
Discussion

- there are some stages yet to be achieved to ensure EBM and CL services:
  - raise the importance of using relevant health information sources amongst the clinical staff
  - provide critically assessed data for use in the clinical setting
  - teach critical appraisal to clinical staff
  - train professional library staff
Conclusion

• there is sufficient interest and enthusiasm to continue the BBB project

• further dissemination of value and benefits of CL service to management to secure funding
  • bridging the literature-practice gap, overcoming barriers to getting information into practice
  • quality assurance that the best evidence has been identified

For the future to ensure the service becomes a permanent feature of hospital teams
References


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Thank you!!!
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