A Quick Exploration of Resources Available to New Pharmacy Librarians

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About Me

- ALA Spectrum Scholar - 2010
- New Librarian – Graduated in 2012
- Medical Librarian (Clinical) - 2012
- Pharmacy Librarian – 2013
Lots of Advice for New Librarians

- Find Your Passion
- Start Conversations
- Learn on the Job
- Build Strong Relationships
- Find a Mentor
Experience Counts

• Health Sciences Librarians often do not have a background in the Health Sciences, and like their Science Librarian Counterparts, sometimes do not have a Science background (Ennis, A. & Mitchell, N. 2010; Beck D. M., & Callison, R. 2006)

• Experience is important, as is passion for the information services profession.

• As a new librarian, I was fortunate enough to have excellent training from both a previous job, and from my new colleges, to combine with knowledge gained during graduate school to help me become a Medical Librarian. During graduate school, my four years in a Health Sciences Library, and my short time as a clinical Medical Librarian, I did not learn about Pharmacy information resources.
Moving From Medical to Pharmacy

I thought that my medical information skills would transfer nicely to pharmacy information services
I Was Wrong

I can build on my medical librarian experience, but being a pharmacy librarian requires different knowledge and resources.
Following Advice

I knew I needed to be proactive gaining the competencies I lacked in order to be a Health Sciences Librarian who served a Pharmacy School.

- Find a Mentor!
- Read Current Literature!
- Learn on the Job!
Finding a Mentor

• No Pharmacy Librarians in my local chapters of MLA or SLA were available for contact
• MLA is working on a Mentor program, SLA’s mentorship program did not have any Pharmacy Librarians available
• No Pharmacy Librarian that I emailed was able to mentor
• Two Pharmacy Librarians who responded to my requests already had multiple mentees
Search for Current Literature
What I Needed to Know

• What are the core materials for a Pharmacy Library? (AACP list, WOOO!) How are they used?
• What are the core databases for Pharmacy?
• What do Pharmacists research? What kind of information needs do they have?
• Do I need to know about Chemical Databases? How much Chemistry do I need to know?
What I Would Have Liked to Know

- Where can I find information about the nuts and bolts of being a Pharmacy Librarian?
- Are there major differences between Pharmacy Information Services based on population served?
- Can I seek a mentorship with a Pharmacy Librarian who works for a pharmaceutical company if I work in academia?
- What are the major professional groups?
- Is there a list serve for Pharmacy Librarians?
- Are Pharmacy Librarians active in social media?
- Where can I have a conversation with other Pharmacy Librarians?
Resources for New Medical Librarians

A wonderful book designed for the Health Sciences, but more focused on Medical Librarians

The Accidental Health Sciences Librarian

Lisa A. Ennis and Nicole Mitchell
Resources for New Medical Librarians

- Mentorships, found through local MLA or SLA chapters, MLIS degree program, networking, and more
- Membership in MLA
- Membership in SLA and other professional organizations that offer a Medical or Health Sciences specialty
- MLA offers fellowship programs, and is currently working on a mentorship program
- NLM offers fellowship programs and other educational resources
- Lots of current literature discussing diverse aspects of Medical Librarianship.
- MedLib List Serve
- Blogs, such as Krafty Librarian, Eagle Dawg Blog, and more
Resources for New Pharmacy Librarians

- AACP Basic Resources for Pharmacy Education List
- PharmLib pbworks wiki
- Current Pharmacy Librarianship Literature is available, but much of it is as applicable to New Librarians.
- MLA Pharmacy & Drug Information Section Membership
- SLA Pharmaceutical and Health Technology Division Membership
What Can Pharmacy Librarians do to help Newbies?

• Create free resources for New Librarians  
  (the pharmlib wiki is a great start, but hasn’t been updated in a year)

• Publish a book/manual/paper on pharmacy librarianship

• Blog about being a pharmacy librarian  
  (Gossypiboma, the only pharmacy librarian blogger I could find, stopped blogging in 2010)

• Reach out to New Pharmacy Librarians, participate in mentorships
Why

- Pharmacy Librarianship is an exciting career and there are many fascinating aspects to the specialty. Not enough people know about it; working with new librarians and LIS students will change that.
- Pharmacy Librarianship requires special knowledge and skills, things that can be difficult for a new librarian to learn if there is not a strong training component at the institution they work at. With the current budget woes for most libraries today, it is very difficult to get training on the job.
- Librarianship has a long tradition of mentoring and encouraging talented people.
- Creating quality resources is not just helpful for other librarians, but also for Health Science Library users.
- Everyone is busy and works hard, but helping others and building strong relationships with new Librarians can be beneficial for you and for the New Librarian.
References


