

# Library Support for Research & eScience: Drawing upon Health Sciences Models

Librarians & eScience: Focusing Towards 20/20  
CIC Center for Library Initiatives Conference

May 12, 2008

Purdue University

Neil Rambo

University of Washington Libraries

ARL Visiting Program Officer

# What makes Health Sciences a model?

- Patient care mission
- Influence of sponsored research
- Connection between professional training & practice

# What makes Health Sciences a model?

- Patient care mission
  - Human life
  - Time critical
  - Highly regulated environment
  - Cost factor
- Influence of sponsored research
- Connection between professional training & practice

# What makes Health Sciences a model?

- Patient care mission
- Influence of sponsored research
  - Time pressures
  - Competition
  - Accountability
- Connection between professional training & practice

# What makes Health Sciences a model?

- ❑ Patient care mission
- ❑ Influence of sponsored research
- ❑ Connection between professional training & practice
  - Undergraduate medical education → clinical rotations → residency → professional practice

# Impact on health sciences libraries

- ❑ Heightened focus on user needs
  - ❑ Health professional
  - ❑ Patient
- ❑ Early adopters of technology
- ❑ Focus on problem solving
  - ❑ Discovery/access → analysis/application
  - ❑ Bibliography → evidence

# Example innovations/responses

- Clinical medical librarian
- Liaison librarian
- [Integrated advanced information management systems]
- Informationist
- Bioinformatics specialist

# Example innovations/responses

- ❑ Clinical medical librarian
  - ❑ Piloted in 1970s
  - ❑ Literature Attached To CHart (LATCH)
    - ❑ Paper → EMR
  - ❑ Evolution from searching → teaching EBM techniques
  - ❑ Scalability issue
- ❑ Liaison librarian
- ❑ [Integrated advanced information management systems]
- ❑ Informationist
- ❑ Bioinformatics specialist



# Example innovations/responses

- Clinical medical librarian
- Liaison librarian
  - Librarian assigned to unit/department
  - Learn professional language, issues, culture
  - Less selector and more consultant/trainer/team member
  - Look for opportunities to connect & add value
  - Scalability issue
- [Integrated advanced information management systems]
- Informationist
- Bioinformatics specialist

# Example innovations/responses

- ❑ Clinical medical librarian
- ❑ Liaison librarian
- ❑ [Integrated advanced information management systems]
  - ❑ 1980s-90s, Nina Matheson
  - ❑ Library as part of an enterprise information system
  - ❑ Library integrated in a technology/organization nexus
  - ❑ “...context-appropriate information, linking the published biomedical knowledge base with clinical, research, educational and administrative information...”
- ❑ Informationist
- ❑ Bioinformatics specialist

# Example innovations/responses

- ❑ Clinical medical librarian
- ❑ Liaison librarian
- ❑ [Integrated advanced information management systems]
- ❑ Informationist (information-specialist-in-context)
  - ❑ 2000, Valerie Florance & Frank Davidoff
  - ❑ Dual track professional training
  - ❑ NIH pilot funding for individuals/institutions (2003, 2006)
- ❑ Bioinformatics specialist

# Example innovations/responses

- Clinical medical librarian
- Liaison librarian
- [Integrated advanced information management systems]
- Informationist
- Bioinformatics specialist

# From service to added value

## *Environment*

- Ubiquitous access
- Ubiquitous technology
- Ubiquitous content
- ↑ Time pressures
- ↑ Funding competition
- ↓ Attention
- Awash in information chaos

## *Service → Added Value*

- Save time: synthesized results
- Improve research productivity
- Improve compliance
- ↓ Costs (?)
- PIM
- Publication assistance
- Data management

# (a little of...) What I don't know

- ❑ *How transferable are these models to other environments?*
- ❑ *Basic idea is to embed within user environment*
- ❑ *Do different professional/academic environments require different models of engagement?*

# Knowledge transfer life cycle

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

**Research Library focus**



# Knowledge transfer life cycle

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.



**Research Library focus needs to shift “up stream”**



# How do we get there?

- ❑ *The organizational structure of our libraries needs to be reconceived.*
  
- ❑ *Our libraries need to be nimbler and faster to respond, while **simultaneously** being the conservator of record.*
  - ❑ *Balancing risk averse with risk capable*
  
- ❑ *We need new kinds of staff with new skills.*
  
- ❑ *We need to invest in high risk programs/services ... without damaging our reputation for trustworthiness*

