

Training of subject specialist librarians in developed countries: a model offering regarding medical librarianship for Turkey

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Abstract

Medical librarianship (ML) has become one of the vital issues today. Expert librarians /information professionals can assist their users in cooperation with academics on issues that fall within their field. In developed countries, specialist librarianship gains importance in Information and Document Management (IDM) education. This study aims to present an idea about the training given in medical librarianship first and then in other specialties (Law Librarianship, Engineering Librarianship, etc.).

Key words: *medical librarianship; librarianship; specialist librarianship.*

Subject expertise can contribute greatly to the development of a country because the subject expert gives the most accurate information to the researcher. For example, in medical librarianship the evidence-based movement has emerged in the past few years in response to changes in the health care arena. Signaling this new orientation, many diverse disciplines and specialties have begun to attach the term evidence-based to their titles: cardiology, pediatrics, surgery, nursing, gastroenterology, diagnostic radiology, disease management, pathology, midwifery, complementary or alternative medicine, and health policy. Evidence-based librarianship and its sub-branches, which are closely related to medical librarianship, have a great place in today's world (1).

It has been observed that undergraduate education in the field of librarianship is low in the developed countries of America and Europe, but it is proportionally more developed in graduate education. The main reason for this is that students of engineering, law, medicine, pharmacy, etc., after completing their undergraduate education, complete their master's degree in librarianship and good subject librarians. In Turkey and in other developing countries, courses should be given under the main title of Medical librarianship and other subject librarianship. In undergraduate courses, only the maintenance and use of the library or catalog rules

training should not be given. Subject expertise in library studies is very important (2). The student who receives this training should be employed in these fields. In other words, specialist librarians are needed as much as medical workers or engineers in a country. The specialization of librarians in certain fields is another important issue in increasing the employment of library graduates. Librarians who deal with more than one area in a library both provide less efficiency and increase librarian unemployment, because they take care of many jobs.

All activities affecting librarianship are an important point in all other fields, especially in Medical Librarianship. The ability of librarians to store information, copy as needed, and manage it at a level that cannot be changed by any other source shows that librarians are the profession with the highest potential in this regard. Professor of Information Services Management at the University of Sheffield, Stephen Pinfield, "examined that subject librarians, who still constitute a significant group of senior staff in most academic libraries, continue to play an important role in the delivery of library services, and this applies to both traditional and electronic library services"(3).

There is no verifiable reason to abandon activities that increase the visibility and importance of librarianship in the missions of medicine and other fields.

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If librarianship does not work in these fields in a related way, or if there are no people with knowledge in these fields and it does not spread all over the world, it is likely that libraries will appear in the "luxury" category. As N.B. Giuse said "I believe we have no choice but to move into the clinical setting; to avoid doing this is to deny our future in the information age" (4).

Thanks to the subject expert librarians, the success of universities is undeniable. Because the researcher can conduct research directly on the subject together with a librarian who is an expert in his field and his own teachers in any subject he wants. To give an example: suppose a medical student heard a certain term from her teacher in an anatomy lesson that day.

When the student first goes to the library's website to make an appointment with the Medical Librarian to do research on that specific term, he is taken to the medical books of the subject specialist librarian to conduct research in this field, and the student is given extensive information and this information is supported by materials. If necessary, additional support is obtained from the university professor. In this way, the student learns the desired information in the most accurate way.

Almost 40 years ago, clinical librarians in the Hartford Hospital program worked with physicians to better serve patients. Changes in information seeking behaviours on patients were recorded in diaries. Ultimately, they determined that the information provided by clinical librarians for house officers positively influenced patient health and management in 20% of cases. Kuller et al. noted that when the selection of relevant clinical articles by librarians and physicians was analyzed, there was no significant difference in usage (4). So, according to this excerpt from the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, the importance of medical librarians is undeniable.

You can find specific aspects of our study and survey results below.

Istanbul University in Research (IU) Information and Document Management students and all the people working in the field of librarianship in Turkey were evaluated. In the questionnaire form, six questions were asked, and the questions were evaluated under three factors. The factors were: in the first part, demographic characteristics of the participants (age, occupation, department); in the second part, open-ended questions, while the third part was based on multiple-choice

questions. Six systematic online questionnaires with their questions and data were saved on the hard disk. A separate title was used in the database for each systematic review. The questionnaire was applied to the Department of Information and Document Management students at undergraduate and graduate levels and people working in libraries, and the results were evaluated. The questions asked for the questionnaire were:

- 1 Do you find the training on librarianship within the Information and Document Management Departments sufficient?
- 2 Should a separate course be opened on Medical Librarianship in the Information and Document Management Department (BBY)?
- 3 In Turkey, can the Information and Document Management Department give Evidence-Based Medical Librarianship Education?
- 4 Is there a library serving the medical field in Turkey that can help users with existing health cases?
- 5 Do you think subject matter expertise in librarianship, which is frequently performed in the United States and Europe, can be adapted to Turkey?
- 6 Do you support the operation of subject expert librarians in Turkey?

Results of the analyzed articles, research and studies on the subject within the scope of Medical librarianship (ML), and other specialized areas of education in developed countries, could be adapted to fit Turkey. Teaching curricula in developed countries are shaped to provide librarianship competencies in subject areas. This new model should be started in Turkey. The importance of the trainer's training should be highlighted to increase the quality of education in the field of specialization required. Most of the participants expressed their concerns about this issue.

The future of librarians who know no bounds in research is linked to subject expertise. For the librarians to be effective, thorough knowledge of the relevant information resources of the discipline they serve is essential and expected. In addition, familiarity with the subject matter, as well as an understanding of the research philosophies, processes and trends of the respective disciplines improves the quality of services librarians deliver to their user communities (5). The issue of librarianship awareness will cease to be a luxury and transform into a requirement worldwide, including in Turkey.

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