Research engagement of health sciences librarians: a survey of research-related activities and attitudes

Susan Lessick, MA, MLS, AHIP, FMLA; Carol Perryman, PhD; Brooke L. Billman, MA, AHIP; Kristine M. Alpi, MLS, MPH, AHIP; Sandy L. De Groote, MLIS, AHIP; Ted D. Babin Jr.

Table 10
Applications of research to practice that enhanced health sciences libraries, by subject

Broad subject categories	n	Percent	Topics	n	Percent
Applied*	152	94.4%			
Education (end users)	37	23.0%	Modifications to existing instruction or assessment tools	15	9.3%
			Additional topics	9	5.6%
			New audiences for instruction	4	2.5%
			Online tutorials or guides posted online	4	2.5%
			Training collaborations	3	1.9%
			Information literacy for specific groups	2	1.2%
Public services	33	20.5%	Service enhancements based on assessment data	12	7.5%
			New services/ service models: alerts/PDA/bioinformatics unspecified	8	5.0%
			Clinician medical librarian/informationist/rounding	5	3.1%
			Searching strategies/protocols	5	3.1%
			Patient/consumer services	3	1.9%
Collection management & development	23	14.3%	Collection assessment for journals, databases, topic areas	12	7.5%
			Acquiring resources for mobile/e-readers/point of care	4	2.5%
			Archives/repositories	3	1.9%
			Consumer health services/resources in libraries	2	1.2%
			Physical collection management (binding/storage)	2	1.2%
Information access & retrieval	18	11.2%	Improved e-resources access/reduce clicks needed/EHR links	6	3.7%
			Improved resource awareness/access for mobile device users	3	1.9%
			Document delivery/interlibrary loan services	3	1.9%
			Specific-population web development	2	1.2%
			Federated search engine/meta search effectiveness	2	1.2%
			Put catalog online	1	0.6%
			Hours	1	0.6%

Broad subject categories	n	Percent	Topics	n	Percent
Marketing & communication	13	8.1%	Marketing/awareness of library services/new methods/audiences	4	2.5%
			Collaborating or sharing with university administration	3	1.9%
			Value of hospital libraries	2	1.2%
			Web 2.0/social media communication strategies	2	1.2%
			Ideas for collaborations/partnerships	2	1.2%
Technology	10	6.2%	Web page usability/redesign	7	4.3%
			Handheld/mobile/e-reader (iPads/laptops)	1	0.6%
			Webinars/podcast infrastructure	1	0.6%
			System/network upgrades	1	0.6%
Administration & management	9	5.6%	Management/leadership; budget/billing/purchasing decisions	9	5.6%
Library space planning	4	2.5%	Library renovations and furniture purchasing	4	2.5%
Outreach	3	1.9%	Broadening programs outside library, underserved practitioners	3	1.9%
Information behavior & use	2	1.2%	User studies of information needs and activities	2	1.2%
Professional concerns*	8	5.0%			
Professional issues	7	4.3%	Professional issues/ trends, state/national/organizational policies	7	4.3%
Continuing education (librarian)	1	0.6%	Awareness of point-of-care products	1	0.6%
Related fields*	1	0.6%			
Health research	1	0.6%	Topical research in health/medical area	1	0.6%
Theoretical*	0	—			
General*	0	—			
Total usable responses	161	100.0%		161	100.0%
Unusable responses	8				
Total responses	169				

* Broad subject categories (general, professional concerns, theoretical, applied, and related fields) were based on Dimitroff's classification scheme of published research in the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* [10].