Multi-faceted Informationist Support for an Auditory Development Research Team: Year One Progress Report

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Objectives
A three-member informationist team from the Health Sciences Library at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill is partnering with a principal investigator and her human auditory development research team (R01, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders) on a supplemental grant award from the National Library of Medicine. The goal of this partnership is to explore and to assess the value and impact of providing in-context information services to researchers.

Methods
For 24 months starting in March 2014, each informationist is providing specific services in distinct need areas identified by the principal investigator. These include:

- Leading and managing a systematic review of the auditory development and related literature.
- Assessing current data and bibliographic management processes and recommending best practices and new tools.
- Upgrading and expanding the presentation and dissemination of research results to families, practitioners, and researchers.

Progress, success and impact of the informationists’ work will be assessed through formative evaluations integrated at regular checkpoints into each of the three service areas. Interviews, observations and meeting notes from years one and two will be collected and analyzed.

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Preliminary Findings
1. The informationists’ work with the research team has catalyzed thinking about file organization and research skill additions to the curriculum in the researchers’ department:
   - Investigators discussing with informationist team and with each other how to better organize and share their data/citations/files.
   - New integration of librarian instruction on selection and use of bibliographic citation management software into the Masters and Doctoral student curricula.
   - Informationists asked to integrate teaching about systematic reviews into the Masters and Doctoral student curricula.

2. The informationist team has made substantial progress in learning more about the distinct need areas identified by the principal investigator and in activities to address them. Activity priorities have evolved as the informationists and the research team have worked together in the three project areas.

Systematic Review
- Articulate Review Topics
  - Researchers and librarian identified search topics. Two specific topics were clearly articulated. Researchers identified key relevant articles.
- Develop Search Strategy
  - Librarian developed test searches. Search terms refined via email and several meetings. PubMedAlert used to check for missing terms. Search strategy was peer-reviewed by a second librarian.
- Conduct Searches
  - Librarian ran search in selected databases & de-duped results in EndNote. Librarian set up Covidence for selection tracking. Librarian will help with deselection of clearly irrelevant articles.

Data Management
- Investigating relevant data management best practices.
  - Interviewed lab personnel & graduate students about workflows and procedures for handling lab data.
- Designing a database to catalog and enhance access to lab audio stimuli.
- Investigated campus storage and backup options.

Research Dissemination & Training
- Creating videos of audiology tests for parent education & postdoc training.
- Developing a public facing website.