Embedding Sustainable Structures for Partnership:
Informationist Collaboration with Newly Formed Institute for Health Care Policy

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OBJECTIVE

To collaborate with a new Institute for healthcare policy to meet their information discovery and management needs

BACKGROUND

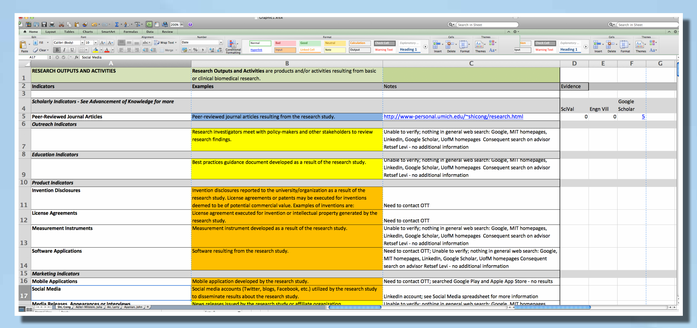
In 2012, the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, created a new Institute dedicated to health services research. The Institute for Health Care Policy and Innovation (IHPI) co-locates researchers across disciplines at the North Campus Research Complex (NCRC), and constitutes one of the United States' largest communities of physicians, health scientists, and health policy analysts focused on the delivery and improvement of healthcare.

IHPI Membership.

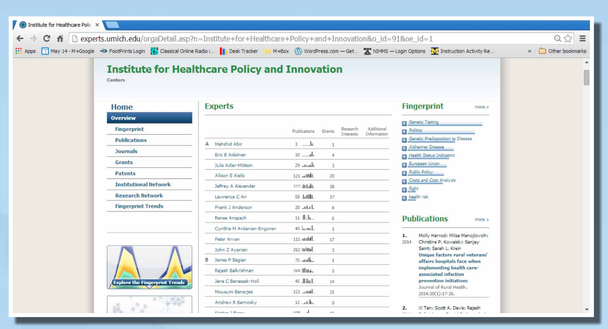
METHODS

Informationists strived to serve as an information hub connecting Institute faculty and staff to relevant information resources and human resources on campus and beyond. Specific services included:

- Development of a pilot metrics project using the Becker Model of Research Impact[1]
- Facilitation of knowledge related to a faculty expertise tool
- Supply of monthly publication output of Institute members
- Provision of complex literature searches and consultations



Sample research impact spreadsheet.



Michigan Experts Screen Shot.

RESULTS

Working with faculty and staff on a diverse range of projects fostered trust and created solid partnerships between IHPI faculty and staff and Informationists. Anecdotal evidence indicates that the Institute values information services provided and includes:

- Repeat questions and consultations with key Institute staff and faculty members, including the Institute's Director and Interim Managing Director
- Ongoing discussions to create and manage publication feeds of IHPI members

CONCLUSIONS

Developing sustained structures for collaboration takes proactive and continuous efforts. Informationists have a sturdy foundation for collaborations moving forward, including plans to:

- Integrate resources and services for understanding research impact
- Create a tailored resource portal for information discovery
- Develop a brief instructional sheet on Michigan Experts for IHPI.
- Maintain visibility of information services through pre-existing communication structures, such as their Institute newsletter
- Assess perceived value of Informationist partnerships and track information needs by using a brief "exit interview" at the conclusion of projects or consultations.

REFERENCE

1. Cathy C. Sarli and Kristi L. Holmes Bernard Becker Medical Library, Washington University School of Medicine https://becker.wustl.edu/impact-assessment

We would like to thank Paul Trombley for his generous help in designing this poster