Expanding Liaison Librarians Roles and Use of School-based Liaison Teams

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Background

Over the last several years, the Taubman Health Sciences Library (THL) liaison librarians have worked toward active involvement in their designated health sciences schools. Through participation in school-sponsored events and conversations with faculty, liaison librarians have learned about and responded to the unique information needs of each school. As partnerships in instruction and research grow and collaborative efforts succeed, demands for liaison services expand. THL has established small internal “core teams” to work with the lead liaison to meet these increased demands. Each team is made up of two to five liaisons working closely with the lead liaison, who serves as the primary contact for the school. Of the five core teams working with our health sciences schools, each team contributes to the liaison services according to the distinctive needs of each school.

Liaison “Core Team” Activities

http://www.lib.umich.edu/thl/liaisons

Medical School

- Curriculum Policy Committee member
- Designated team for curriculum-based instruction
- Librarian integration into M1 & M2 longitudinal cases

Nursing

- Curriculum Committee member
- Integrated instruction on EBP across curriculum, freshman through PhD
- Participation in SON/UMHS Nursing Research Partnership

Dentistry

- Curriculum Committee member
- Integrated in evidence-based dentistry courses
- Office hours, active web presence

Pharmacy

- Curriculum sub-committee members
- Integrated in evidence-based medicine courses
- Small-group instruction with residents and students in drug information rotations

Public Health

- Office hours and brief drop-in sessions
- Active involvement with the public health practice community
- Integration into research centers and depts (literature searching and instruction)

Liaison Assigned to School

Liaison Team Triage Model

- More staff responsible for reference
- More staff involved in instruction & consultations
- More staff participating in mediated literature searches

Expanded Liaison “Core Team” Model

- Permitted more proactive goal setting
- Increased curriculum integration
- Built greater depth to liaison activities