

Ready to Help! Partnering with Your Medical Librarian to Maximize Scholarly Success, August 18, 2023

A presentation by Gary S. Atwood, MSLIS, MA, and Lee Crowther

Librarians can help!

Librarians are known for helping with books, article access, searches, and citation management, but they can also assist in other areas, such as information literacy, scholarly communications, research impact, evidence-based medicine, and taxonomies.

Libraries offer a range of services beyond traditional roles, and users are encouraged to inquire about them.



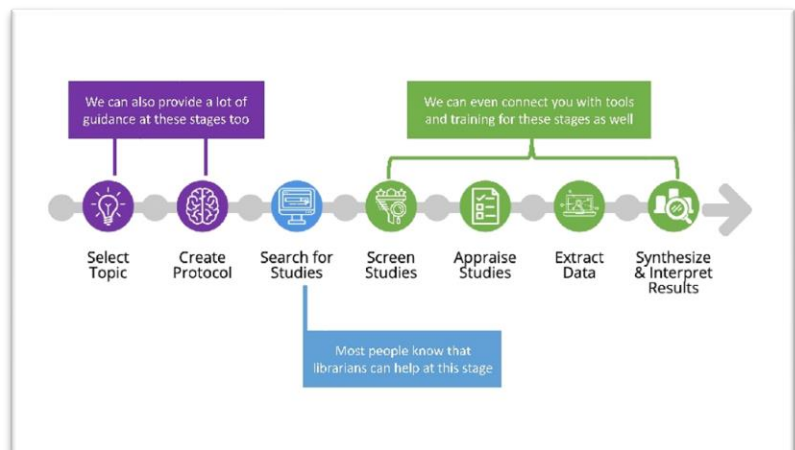
Library Anxiety

Library anxiety, caused by various factors, sometimes hinders people from seeking help from librarians. For example, library jargon and clunky systems can deter users. Librarians want to address these challenges and improve outreach and communication about available resources and services.



Searches

Librarians are trained in developing complex search strategies. They can help in conducting systematic or scoping reviews, refining research questions, selecting methodologies, and building protocols. Librarians can guide users through screening studies and provide support in drafting, editing, and submitting manuscripts. They can also help with searches beyond scholarly resources, such as newspapers, websites, and social media.





Artificial Intelligence

Librarians focus on information literacy and can guide users in understanding AI technologies. AI applications like ChatGPT have limitations, including incorrect information and nonexistent sources, and strengths, including generating ideas, offering writing suggestions, and providing database recommendations. AI poses ethical challenges, including bias amplification, data ownership, environmental impact, privacy, behavior manipulation, and more. Librarians can play a role in educating users about AI ethics and implications.

Artificial Intelligence

- **Artificial Intelligence:** “the science and engineering of making intelligent machines, especially intelligent computer programs” — John McCarthy
- **Intelligence:** “the ability to learn and perform suitable techniques to solve problems and achieve goals, appropriate to the context in an uncertain, ever-varying world” — Christopher Manning



Recommended Readings

- Kraft MA. How to Take Advantage of Your Medical Librarian. NEJM Resident 360 blog. April 6, 2022. <https://resident360.nejm.org/expert-consult/how-to-take-advantage-of-your-medical-librarian-3>
- Miller K, Ben-Knaan K. How librarians contribute to interdisciplinary research teams. Integration and Implementation Insights blog. September 22, 2020. <https://i2insights.org/2020/09/22/librarians-and-interdisciplinarity/>
- Hervieux S, Wheatley A. Separating Artificial Intelligence from Science Fiction: Creating an Academic Library Workshop Series on AI Literacy. In: Hervieux S, Wheatley A, eds. The Rise of AI: Implications and Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Libraries. 2022:Chap 5. <https://www.choice360.org/libtech-insight/creating-an-academic-library-workshop-series-on-ai-literacy/>
 - The “Introduction” paragraph and “AI Literacy” through “AI in Research” sections are particularly useful.
- Rozear H, Park S. ChatGPT and Fake Citations. Duke University Libraries News Events & Exhibits blog. March 9, 2023. <https://blogs.library.duke.edu/blog/2023/03/09/chatgpt-and-fake-citations/>
- Bender EM, Hanna A. AI Causes Real Harm. Let’s Focus on That over the End-of-Humanity Hype. Scientific American. August 12, 2023. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/we-need-to-focus-on-ais-real-harms-not-imaginary-existential-risks/#>
- Lee TB, Trott S. A jargon-free explanation of how AI large language models work. Ars Technica. July 31, 2023. <https://arstechnica.com/science/2023/07/a-jargon-free-explanation-of-how-ai-large-language-models-work/>

These key moments and helpful resources are from a monthly webinar series hosted by the editorial teams of the AAMC’s 2 peer-reviewed journals, Academic Medicine and MedEdPORTAL. Sessions cover the importance of publishing your education scholarship and practical suggestions for how to do so successfully. All are invited to attend. [Learn more about upcoming sessions.](#)