

10 WAYS YOUR MEDICAL LIBRARIAN CAN HELP YOU SUCCEED WITH SCHOLARLY PROJECTS

Christine S. Gaspard, MSLIS¹; Pat Hawthorne, MSLIS, MA¹; Stacy A. Ogbeide¹, PsyD, ABPP*

¹ The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

*Corresponding Author: Stacy A. Ogbeide, PsyD, ABPP; stacy.ogbeide@gmail.com

Medical librarians are underutilized experts in managing information to support faculty in scholarly projects.¹ Their expertise improves the quality of scholarship and contributes to improved educational outcomes.¹ Medical librarians use innovative strategies to access and deliver vital information for patient care, education, and research to support faculty in bringing projects to publication.² **These 10 tips** offer practical guidance for collaboration between medical librarians and academic family medicine faculty.

1

Focus on evidence-based medicine

Medical librarians help faculty formulate a research question using frameworks like PICO that identify strong evidence.³

2

Effective literature searching

Whether working on curriculum development or answering a clinical question, medical librarians skillfully navigate databases like PubMed, Scopus, and Cochrane to find precise, relevant results.

3

Time saving support

Medical librarians locate information efficiently, streamlining searches and retrieving essential resources. This allows faculty to focus on other aspects of their careers, such as clinical work, teaching, or research.

4

Assistance with structured reviews

Medical librarians assist with systematic, scoping, and narrative reviews. Librarians provide guidance on review methodologies, advanced search strategies, and database selection.⁴

5

Customized instructional support

Medical librarians create customized workshops on topics like evidence-based medicine, literature searching, and advanced research techniques. These sessions help improve research skills and achieve specific teaching and learning outcomes.

6

Citation management

Citation management tools like EndNote, Mendeley, and Zotero help organize references. Librarians offer training and provide online resources to assist faculty in using these tools.

7

Resource for point-of-care tools

For clinical faculty, medical librarians facilitate the use of clinical decision-support tools like UpToDate and DynaMed. They also assist in answering real-time patient care questions and help faculty develop case studies for publication.

8

Access the latest research

Medical librarians help faculty set up database alerts that deliver the latest articles directly to inboxes on a customized schedule.

9

Finding specialized resources

Medical librarians assist faculty in obtaining hard-to-find materials through interlibrary loan, digital collections, or journal subscriptions.

10

Partners for success

Medical librarians are more than a service, they are active partners in faculty success. By enhancing teaching, patient care, and research, they contribute to the well-rounded academic medicine faculty member's growth and impact.¹

REFERENCES

1. Cyrus JW, Zeigen L, Knapp M, Blevins AE, Patterson B. A scoping review of librarian involvement in competency-based medical education. *J Med Libr Assoc.* 2025;113(1):9-23. doi:10.5195/jmla.2025.1965
2. Akers KG, Higgins M, DeVito JA, Stieglitz S, Tolliver R, Tran CY. Collaboration between health sciences librarians and faculty as reflected by articles published in the *Journal of the Medical Library Association*. *J Med Libr Assoc.* 2018;106(4):416-419. doi:10.5195/jmla.2018.559
3. Richardson WS, Wilson MC, Nishikawa J, Hayward RS. The well-built clinical question: a key to evidence-based decisions. *ACP J Club.* 1995;123(3):A12-A13. doi:10.7326/ACPJC-1995-123-3-A12
4. Sutton A, Clowes M, Preston L, Booth A. Meeting the review family: exploring review types and associated information retrieval requirements. *Health Info Libr J.* 2019;36(3):202-222. doi:10.1111/hir.12276