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Introduction

- ◆ Librarians are often seen as a major resource for gaining access to information and knowledge.
- ◆ However, many did not realize that librarians may also play an important role in research activities
- ◆ The role of librarians may be enhanced through research activities by taking part in an advocacy research on domestic violence.
- ◆ Advocacy research entails building resources and knowledge based on research data, distributing information, strengthening and empowering researchers and practitioners

Objective

- ◆ To highlight the advantages of participation of liaison librarians in research activities

Background: Participation of the Librarian in the Study of Domestic Violence

- ◆ The librarian was invited to join the study as soon as it was initiated
- ◆ The study was conducted in 2010. It was a cross-sectional study on health status and health impact of women experiencing domestic violence (DV). The study collaborated with 13 selected women non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Malaysia
- ◆ Simple random sampling was used to identify the respondents from each NGOs and a total of 316 women were interviewed
- ◆ The study used a validated and translated WHO multi-country study on women's health and life events questionnaire

Stages of Participation and Engagement of the Librarian

- ❖ Deliberation on the research process
- ❖ Engaging NGOs as partner
- ❖ Training of researchers and enumerators
- ❖ Writing workshops

- ❖ Workshop deliberating on research results with NGOs
- ❖ Workshop deliberating on research results with health sectors
- ❖ Discussion on disseminating the results to the community

Results of Engaging Liaison Librarian in the Research

Sharing of skills

- ❑ Networking among librarians, community, faculty and researchers
- ❑ Building a resource centre
- ❑ Strengthening resource base for specific issues such as domestic violence
- ❑ Creating awareness to users

Contribution

- ❑ Effective use of library facilities
- ❑ Advising and training for the use of search engines
- ❑ Endnote skills
- ❑ Inter and intra library loans

Building librarian research capacity

- ❑ Thinking in research framework
- ❑ Exposure to research methodology and processes
- ❑ Exposure to research analysis
- ❑ Working with multi-disciplinary research team

Immediate benefit

- ❑ Taking part in another research (bringing in the experience)
- ❑ Encouraging other librarians to take part in research
- ❑ Sharing of experience with other librarians in the organisation and in the country
- ❑ Linking results to consumers in the institution as well as the community, for example, in the communities in the east-coast region

Lesson learned

- ❑ Participation of librarian must be clearly stated and should start from the beginning of research
- ❑ Librarians are not literature search assistants, their equal participation in the research must be insisted
- ❑ The participation has enriched the distribution of knowledge and the development of specific academic field
- ❑ Taking part in the advocacy context of the research has made library more involved in issues affecting the community

Discussion

❑ The experience from this research helps to change the perception of the role of librarians among academic researchers and NGOs. Accepting the librarian as equal partner in the research team not only increase the utility of liaison librarian^{1,2} but it also supported the research in building up resources during the research process, promoting the knowledge generated from the research, strengthening library resource on DV and linking the knowledge to the community^{3,4}. The experience also acknowledged the points made by Montelongo (2010) that librarians who are involved in research will be "more receptive to change" and "will be more committed to scholarship" while at the same time will develop "effective relationship with faculty members".

Limitation

❑ The participation was not conceptualize before the research but rather through out the research it self. The team fully recommended that in the future other researchers should involved the librarian as equal partner in research.

Conclusion

❑ The experience shows that participation of the librarian in the research benefited all stakeholders: the librarian herself, the research team, the research process, library resources, the institution and the wider community

Recommendation

- ❑ Involve librarians as equal partners from the very beginning of research
- ❑ Familiarise librarians to health research specifically and research in general
- ❑ Encourage more librarian-academic research engagement
- ❑ Create positions for research librarians in teaching institutions
- ❑ Create specific space/infrastructure for researchers in library

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