

### BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Evidence-based practice (EBP) has been the buzzword in the scientific field of academia. By the mid 1990s, a broader perspective of evidence base has emerged known as Evidence-Based Healthcare (EBHC) and with the advent of information technology, EBP continued to spill out of the medical boundary into the fields of education, social sciences and human resource management. The shift towards evidence-based librarianship (EBL) started off when health sciences librarians became directly involved with medical and health care professionals. Although EBP has captivated the librarianship domain and became a global phenomenon, it is felt that the EBP undertaking in Malaysia is very much at its infancy. The purpose of this presentation is to showcase the outcome of the workshop on EBM held at Hamdan Tahir Library in 2008 which is considered as the stepping stone for EBM to gain foothold in Malaysian medical libraries and how it has progressed ever since.

### METHODS

The EBP concept began to be taken seriously when a group of fellows including librarians were invited to join the South East Asia – Optimising Reproductive and Child Health in Developing Countries (SEA-ORCHID) fellowships program. The outcome of this program is to assume a critical role in facilitating knowledge transfer to clinicians as well as supporting the implementation of EBP. Various programmes are being held after the fellowship:

- Training on EBM and related searching skills to Hamdan Tahir librarians
- Individual trainings for medical staff
- Promotions via website, exhibitions
- Road shows to various departments in the medical school
- Workshop on Evidence Based Medicine
- Follow-up training and Phase II hands-on training in EBM for librarians
- Evidence Based Practice: Train the Trainers workshop

Other post programmes of SEA ORCHID includes institutional education and training sessions relevant to evidence-based practice, meetings of SEA-ORCHID team members with local, regional or national leaders and regular departmental activities that include EBP.

### RESULTS

The outcome of such programmes indicated the following :

- a) Librarian's role in supporting EBP
- b) Implementation of EBP in the library
- c) Barriers
- d) Recommendations and future plans

### Librarians' role in supporting EBP

- Role in information retrieval / searching information
- Role in teaching effective literature searching skills
- Role as tutor/facilitator and educator in academic curriculum
- Role as faculty librarians / subject librarians
- Role in advocating library services in clinical areas (clinical librarian / informationist role)
- Role in designing search strategies / comprehensive searching strategies
- Role in database maintenance
- Role in hand-searching for local journal publication

### Implementation of EBP in the library

- Integration of EBM in students' curriculum
- Collaboration with academicians and schools
- Advanced training in information searching skills
- Designing searching strategies
- Group tutorials
- Road shows / Road tours
- Survey

### Barriers

- Support from schools
- Qualified and skilled librarian
- Communication / language barrier
- Lack of knowledge in medical terms or jargons
- Lack of pedagogy skills
- Not updated of the latest information resources on site or beyond
- Inadequate network infrastructure / computer facilities / IT infrastructure
- Lack of confidence / self esteem among librarians
- Time constraint
- User attitude

### Recommendations and future plans

- More opportunities for librarians to participate in attachment and visiting programmes
- Continuous extra training
- Librarians as influential members in the curriculum committee
- A more persistent role as subject librarian
- Special interactive session with medical practitioners
- Inclusion of EBM / EBP as one of library mission statements
- Participation in professional EBP-related associations and attend EBP conferences.
- Addition of EBP as part of library school curriculum
- More librarians with Masters Degree and doctorate
- More librarians doing research and publishing their findings



### CONCLUSION

It is observed that the SEA-ORCHID has played a vital role in instigating the evidence-based practice initiatives among Malaysian librarians. When the national workshop was held in 2008, Malaysian medical librarians were initially exposed with the EBP concept and consequently it has been given due attention in the Medical Library Group, a special interest group of librarians who work in medical and health libraries and information centres. Some of these librarians have shown interest to further their training in EBP as well as to hold more EBP workshops in order to engage more librarians in EBP initiatives. However it must be implied that EBP is still new in Malaysia, thus current awareness is very important. A thorough comprehension of the EBP concept is needed to prepare the librarians for a paradigm shift towards, at the least, adjusting schedules for extra time and increasing professional reading, and at the most, initiating journal clubs and applying research into practice.



### REFERENCES

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