BOOK REVIEW

Gemma Siemensma provides us with this review of *Health sciences librarianship* edited by M. Sandra Wood, Rowman and Littlefield.

*Health Sciences Librarianship* is broken into four parts which focus on the profession; collection services; user services and administrative services. This book is very much US focused but it is still universal in much of what it discusses.

The profession looks at the various roles health librarians perform. This helps to expand your knowledge as health librarians are found not only in hospitals and universities, but also in consumer roles, research roles and specialist roles which shows how diverse we can be. This section discusses what professional associations are available, which specific health library journals are published, the trends in health libraries such as evidence based library and information practice, active learning, research collaboration and technological trends. It sets the foundation from which the rest of the book works off.

Section two focuses on collections. In particular the collection development chapter looks at both print and e-collections and reference is made to Faculty of 1000, a social media site where people communicate and learn about resources. Reference is also made to the RLG Conspectus which is a system used to apply a uniform approach to collection strength and collecting intensities by subject. Technical services is also discussed with talk on patron driven acquisition, RDA replacing AACR2, MESH and tips and tricks employed to make it easier for library users to find resources subscribed to by your library. Technology is also explored such as systems, apps, security, integrating into electronic health records and web scale discovery.

User services focuses on reference queries and user instruction. In particular how a single “teachable moment” can change the information seeking practices of someone for a lifetime. Other learning styles such as case based learning, team based learning and problem based learning with librarian involvement are explained. There are also several chapters devoted to research which focus on conducting literature searches and systematic reviews, helping to organise and manage reference lists and research data management. Much was said of how librarians can influence the integrity of scientific research and how we can aid in data sharing. This included discussions on both data and institutional repositories. Outreach services are also touched upon which included exploring the concepts of embedded librarianship, research postdoctoral associates, information specialists and consumer librarian roles.

The book is brought back together with administrative aspects of health librarianship. It focuses on aligning the library’s vision and mission with that of the parent organisation, the involvement of library staff in committees external to the library, funding and budgetary issues and standards and accreditation. There is also a chapter devoted to physical space, room layouts, functional requirements and non-traditional spaces. The last chapter focuses on the future. Included in this is the emergence of embedded librarianship, research roles, clinical librarians and collaborations.

For me this book helped to reinforce what I do and it sparked new ideas to follow up. It brought to the forefront of my mind ideas that I had vaguely heard about but had long since forgotten. It continually referred back to the critical issue of health librarians making themselves indispensable within the organisation. It focussed on aligning ourselves with the overall mission of the organisation, developing new and innovative services, becoming an integral part of the research process, and most importantly collaborating with others in the organisation instead of just providing a service. This book would be an excellent starting point for library science students or those new to health libraries.

BOOK DETAILS

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