

Embedded Librarians: Collaborations in Research and Teaching

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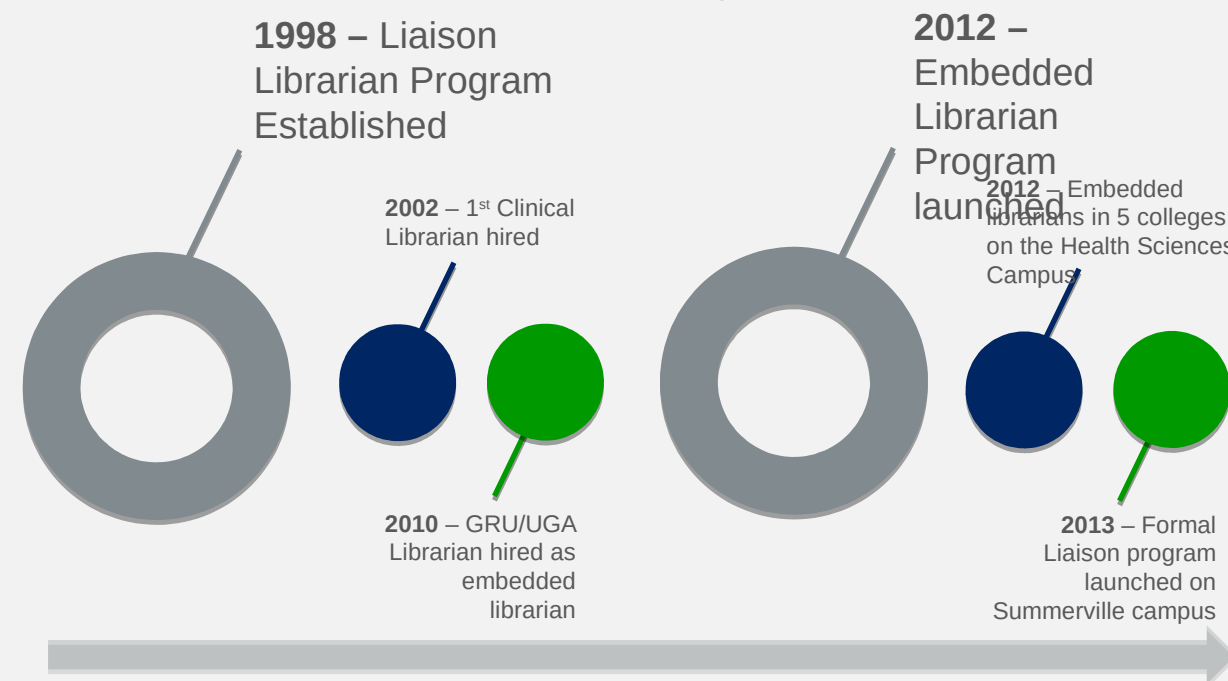
Introduction

The increased use of online information resources has allowed health sciences librarians to seek new roles outside of the physical library. A proactive approach is needed to provide information at the time and location of need. The Georgia Regents University (GRU) Librarians have responded to this shift by exploring a model of embedded librarianship that provides specialized assistance and deeper involvement at the college level. Embedded librarianship uses a service model that incorporates librarians as active university participants as opposed to the traditional role of service providers.

Background

Historically the Greenblatt Library has designated librarians as liaisons to colleges and departments on the GRU health sciences campus. This library-centric model required patrons to visit the physical library for assistance and the librarians experienced dwindling returns on a busy health sciences campus. Library administration, in collaboration with the liaison librarians, investigated a service model of librarian integration in their customers' settings called embedded librarianship. Best practices suggested establishing office space for librarians among their designated customer groups. Once "embedded," the librarian would become a part of customers' daily activities and provide information support on-demand and in context.

The History of Embedded Librarian Program at Georgia Regents University



The challenge for the embedded model at GRU was obtaining campus office space within colleges and departments. The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Librarian has office space in the library and AHEC area and the office space for the Athens campus librarian is located centrally within the medical campus. The Clinical Librarian utilizes shared clinical space with the residents for rounds and in clinic. The embedded librarians for Nursing, Dental Medicine, Allied Health and Medicine reached out to their respective colleges to obtain space. Liaisons met with the Deans of each college and office space was established. The under-construction J. Harold Harrison, M.D. Education Commons will also house an additional embedded librarian.

Methods

The GRU Librarians on the health sciences campus have implemented embedded librarianship in the Colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Dental Medicine, Nursing, the Medical College of Georgia, the Georgia Regents Health System and the GRU/UGA Medical Partnership in Athens. Their roles as embedded librarians include maintaining weekly office hours in academic departments, rounding in clinical rotations, providing curriculum-based instruction and assisting students and faculty with research. The Area Health Education Centers Librarian (AHEC) has begun seeking opportunities for embedding in the Institute of Public and Preventive Health. The methods below detail each librarian's involvement at the college level.

Medical College of Georgia/GRHealth

Librarian: Kathy Davies

- Teaches within the curriculum included case-based review sessions for second year students, classroom demonstration and hands-on database searching practice for first year students
- Serves on Bioinformatics Subgroup for College of Medicine curriculum planning for Essentials of Clinical Medicine course
- Collaborates with Educational Innovation Institute faculty to develop taxonomy and locate assessment instruments for medical education



Librarian: Lindsay Blake

- Attends Morning Report and Rounds for Family Medicine and Pediatrics. Provides research and review articles to accompany topics covered during morning report
- Works with faculty, residents and students to utilize evidence based resources
- Works with third-year Pediatric residents to find literature and create presentations to apply journal club article to current practice
- Works with faculty on literature review for grant funding



GRU/UGA Medical Partnership

Librarian: Julie K. Gaines

- Serves as solo embedded librarian. Fully integrated into curriculum. Collaborates with faculty to create curricular activities for the medical students
- Fulfills more traditional roles such as collection development, reference, and managing library
- Teach Evidence-Based medicine (EBM) concepts and critical appraisal of literature
- Serves as a small group facilitator in the Community Health component where she guides eight students in their project
- Collaborates with Pediatric Clerkship Director to teach during the Pediatric academic half day



Nursing

Librarian: Kim Mears



- Office Hours: Monday & Friday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Health Science Building (EC 4503)
- Member of GRHealth System Evidence Based Council; Member of College of Nursing Academic Affairs, Instructional Technology Advisory Committee, and RS-BSN Task Force
- Research Specialist for the Center of Nursing Research
- Guest lecturer in Nursing research classes

Institute of Public and Preventive Health

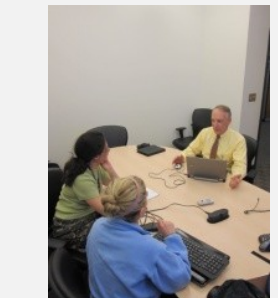
Librarian: Darra Ballance



- Recently established embedded librarian initiative
- Met with the Director of the Institute
- Research support services have been offered

Allied Health Sciences

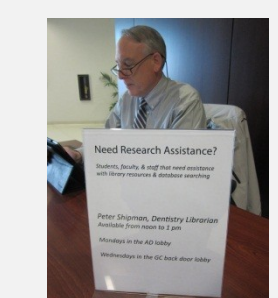
Librarian: Peter Shipman



- Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Health Science Building (EC 1207)
- Member of the College of Allied Health Sciences Faculty Council
- Attends Chairs Meeting as requested

Dental Medicine

Librarian: Peter Shipman



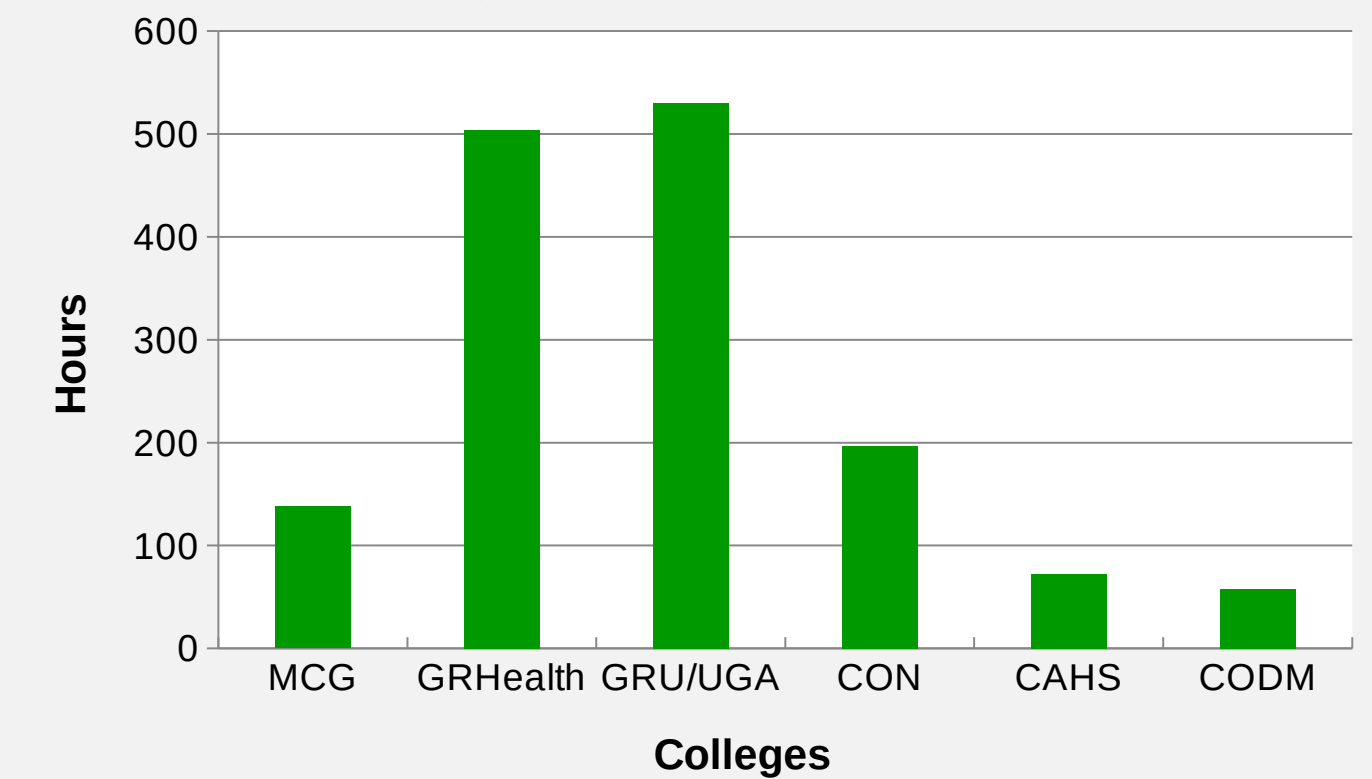
- Office Hours: Monday, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., Former College of Dental Medicine Lobby Wednesday, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., College of Dental Medicine Lobby
- Member of the College of Dental Medicine Curriculum Committee
- Member of the College of Dental Medicine Instructional Technology Advisory Committee

Results

As a result of having a presence outside of the library, meetings with Deans, Department Chairs and faculty have increased, allowing the embedded librarians to promote the services they offer. This has made a significant difference in how the Library and Librarians are perceived and how their services are utilized. Additionally, the number of office drop-ins, class sessions, and participation in college-level committees has increased.

The number of contact hours for each college was collected. The embedded librarians defined contact hours as the total amount of time spent in office hours, meetings, teaching sessions, and research consultations for August 2012 to February 2013. The results indicate a broad range of contact hours. Factors influencing the number of contact hours include varying start dates for each program and the nature of the College's needs. Data has not been collected for the Institute of Public and Preventive Health as it is a recently established initiative.

Embedded Librarian Contact Hours (August 2012 – February 2013)



Conclusion

As the program continues to grow, the embedded librarians plan to strengthen established relationships in each college, as well as launch new collaborations throughout the enterprise. Embedded librarians will continue to actively partner with GRU faculty in writing for publication, seeking grant funding, developing open access journals, facilitating group projects, teaching health information literacy competencies, and contributing to scholarship and discovery.