

Grace Ajuwon:

My name is Grace Ajuwon. I am a reference librarian at the E. Latunde Odeku Medical Library at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. I provide reference services to our users. I teach students, faculty, researchers, health care workers how to find, organize and use health information. I also teach them how to organize their references using bibliographic management software. I teach them how to use Endnote©. I teach them how to use Zotero©.

I have been working closely with resident doctors. I have had to help them to search for information, but particularly I help them with putting evidence into practice. Sometimes they want information on how to address a particular technical question. Sometimes they need information on already published literature for their research and they come back to say, 'Well, you have been very helpful, thank you so much.'

I have stories of how this group of professionals have had to come to me for information. Of late, one came to me, 'I have searched the internet, I could not find the information I need. My supervisor wants me to get local content.' And I say, 'On what?' And she said, 'On pertussis'. And I said, 'What key words do you use? Let's do it together.' We went to PubMed, we searched for pertussis and we found some information that was not local, which means it was not published in Africa, they were published by foreign authors, and I said, 'Well, at this point we have to change and think of another key word to use. Is there any other term for pertussis? Why can't we search using whooping cough?' And when we did we found that some Nigerians, some African authors have done so much work on pertussis, and she was very happy. And that enriched her work and she ended up being one of the best during the West African College of Physicians examination. And that really made me happy.

Also we had a situation, where a doctor would come to me and said I need information on ophthalmic diseases that affect the ear, nose and throat. I have

searched the internet, I have searched everywhere, it is impossible to get much. I said, 'No, the materials are there, it is just that you don't know how to go about searching.' I don't want to help you to do the search, I am going to teach you how to do it so that when you have a similar need for information you will be able to do it for yourself. So I taught him one on one how to do the searches. And what is really of interest to me is making sure they know where to search for information. If they want to apply evidence in practice, they know that the Corcoran Library is there for them, and that the clinical evidence is there and all these resources are available to them free through HINARI.

Thank you

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Comments by librarians at their planning meeting February 27-March 2, 2012, Kenyatta University, Nairobi

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