

Masimba Muziringa

I am Masimba Muziringa and I am the medical librarian at the University of Zimbabwe, College of Health Sciences library. In terms of training, on undergraduate students, the faculty and postgraduates, we have considerably used the manual which was created by this network on 'Finding, Organizing and Using Health Information'. And we have used it to teach information literacy for undergraduates and in the rest of Zimbabwe have been teaching about 430 undergraduate students in health information literacy course, which is also examined as part of the regulation. I have also used the manual to train postgraduate students and academics. Essentially to achieve this I have customized some important aspects of the manual, such as information retrieval, reference management and anti-plagiarism, and I have held many workshops and trainings targeting the postgraduates and the academic staff. Essentially this is part of faculty training and faculty development at the College of Health Sciences.

I am also involved quite a lot in the Zimbabwe MEPI project, where I have received tremendous support from the project in training, rolling out these trainings to the postgraduates and academics. And of late we have also been able to have access to clinical information through one of the databases called up-to-date. And through these initiatives I have also trained clinicians and physicians on the utilization of this clinical database right at the point care. The idea is to improve medical education, teaching, research and improved patient care in Zimbabwe.

Perhaps one of the areas where I think in terms of taking forward this project perhaps there is need for increased support in training and reaching out to other stakeholders who have perhaps not only have in rest of Zimbabwe but rural communities, other health centers, central hospitals in Zimbabwe and customizing the manual again to train them so that they can also be able to access and utilize quality health information.

Thank you.

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The Network of African Medical Librarians

Meetings

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

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