

SCRIPT FOR NAML PRESENTATION AT MEPI SYMPOSIUM

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JULIA

Enhancing Capabilities of Medical Librarians in Africa.

The people to tell you about this are the experts – the librarians themselves. But first, a brief setting of the scene with a word from the incoming PI chair, a word from the outgoing PI chair, and in between, virtual greetings from a very special group called the Network of African Medical Librarians.

Earlier this week, my longtime colleague Nelson Sewankambo told me:

The role of the library and info access excites me greatly. I can't even imagine a successful academic institution involving medical education with no linkup with the library and info access. In our MEPI, we see librarians as a critical and central piece to our efforts. As you provide education to young individuals, and also to those who are already in service, they need continuing health professional development. Librarians are critically important in our system to build the capacity for access to information in today's world. The information is right out there, and it is a question of being conversant with the use of IT to access information. But also be capable of sorting out the quality

information from that which is not. We need to use librarians and to partner with librarians in order for our programs to be strongly successful.

Run Video of NAML intros – virtual greetings from members of our Network

Run video of James Kiarie – MEPI mandate

Today, we bring you the traveling medical librarians' roadshow to educate and inform you about who they are, what they've done, and how they can work with you. Remember the Ethiopian adage: When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.

I now present Grace Ajuwon, University of Ibadan in Nigeria, and Alison Kinengyere, of Makerere University in Uganda.

GRACE: We're here to tell you about the role of the Network of African Medical Librarians in medical education, research and training

ALISON: Our vision is to strengthen health sciences education, research & outreach for better health outcomes in Africa

GRACE: Our Mission is to expand the frontiers of knowledge through the training of, and outreach to African librarians, the academic community, health care professionals, health policy makers in finding, organising and using of health information.

ALISON: The Network of African Medical Librarians started with the training of 5 medical librarians at the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health in the US.

GRACE: The one year graduate training is called NLM Associate Fellowship Program (AFP).

ALISON: The First African Associate Fellow was admitted in 2001

GRACE: Five more fellows have since attended the program

ALISON: NAML currently comprises 8 member countries:

- Kenya
- Mali
- Morocco
- Mozambique

GRACE:

- Nigeria
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

ALISON: Here are the pioneer members

GRACE: And here is our first meeting – at Kenyatta University in Nairobi where we now have our secretariat. We called our group the Network of African Medical Librarians and Deans, because we brought our bosses!

ALISON: First, we developed a training manual: Finding, Organising and Using Health Information

GRACE: The manual has 7 modules that are adapted for different audiences & available for free online

ALISON: The manual is currently in English and will soon be available in French & Portuguese.

GRACE: And here's our manual!

ALISON: Module 1 – Information Sources

GRACE: Where to find sources of information. What about all that information on the Internet?

ALISON: Module 2 –Information Searching Tools

GRACE: Like health databases and free medical journal articles.

ALISON: Module 3 – Electronic information searching techniques

GRACE: Like how to develop a search strategy and REALLY get what you want through DEEP searching.

ALISON: Module 4 – Intellectual property rights

GRACE: Do you really understand copyright and how to know when you're cheating?

ALISON: Module 5 – Information and reference management

GRACE: Do you know how to manage bibliographic references?

ALISON: Module 6 – Evaluating information

GRACE: What are the criteria for evaluating information sources?
How do you evaluate information on the Internet?

ALISON: Module 7 – Scholarly communication

GRACE: How do you write a term paper or journal article? How do you present your research? What is plagiarism?

ALISON: Our Network members have adopted the manual and used it for training in their countries

CLICK THROUGH THE NEXT PHOTOS

GRACE: In Mali, the librarian:

Created training lessons in information retrieval

Created bibliography course for undergraduate students in library studies

Teaches Masters of Public Health students in information access and retrieval

Prepares for training workshop on scientific writing

ALISON: In Kenya, the manual has been used at Kenya Methodist University for:

Designing information literacy modules for the entire University

Training 1st year medical students in information searching and retrieval skills

Training sessions on effective use of e-resources and reference management for postgraduate students

Preparation of information retrieval training workshops for faculty and library staff

GRACE: In Nigeria,

At the University of Ibadan, College of Medicine, we adapted the manual to teach medical students in information searching and retrieval skills.

E. LatundeOdeku Medical Library held training sessions on:

Online information searching skills, search techniques and retrieval

Use of bibliographic management tools (EndNote and Zotero)

For: Undergraduate medical students

Postgraduate students

Faculty

Health workers

ALISON: In Uganda,

At MakCHS, we adopted the manual to conduct training sessions on manuscript writing for authors

Topics covered:

Information retrieval skills

Reference management using EndNote program

GRACE: Now, we'd like to share with you examples of training activities conducted in collaboration with MEPI in 4 countries...

ALISON: Albert Cook Library, with support from MESAU-MEPI trained students at MakCHS in information searching and reference management using the (EndNote)

Since September 2011, the Library trained

59 undergraduate students

58 graduate students

GRACE: Information Retrieval & Online Research Course, supported by MEPI, Zimbabwe

Training aims at raising levels of awareness of electronic information resources and improving information retrieval skills

Number trained so far = 727 comprising academic and administrative staff, postgraduate and undergraduate students and researchers

ALISON: University of Zambia Medical Library held an information retrieval skills training workshop in collaboration with:

The Zambia Medical Association (ZMA)

Medical Journal of Zambia

African Medical Journal Partnership Project (AJPP)

The workshop provided participants with insights into the various aspects of retrieving information for scientific/medical writing

GRACE: Librarians at E. LatundeOdeku Medical Library (ELOML), University of Ibadan, organised training workshops in collaboration with :

Medical Education Partnership Initiative, Nigeria (MEPIN)

Research Management Office (RMO)

Association of Resident Doctors (ARD)

Target audience for the workshops are:

Medical students, Postgraduate students/ Resident doctors and Faculty

Training topics

online information searching, access and retrieval skills

use of reference management tools- Zotero/Endnote

Intellectual misconduct

Since 2012, total number trained is 266, consisting of:

140 Medical Students

106 Graduate students

98 Resident doctors

20 Faculty

ALISON: testimonials

- 1. I have loved the session. I wish I went through it before, because it is hard to do research without this kind of information**
- 2. I believe it will enhance my information searching skills**
- 3. This is a very good training for all those intending to write and publish, well delivered**
- 4. Very very useful. Has come at an appropriate time. May need to give more of such training sessions to others**

GRACE: testimonials

- 1. The University should mandate all post graduate students to go through this training to bring about quality research work since University of Ibadan is a research institution.**
- 2. MEPI should consider training at departmental level since referencing is crucial in scholarly works**
- 3. Use of Zotero was fantastic!**

GRACE: We hope we've given you some ideas and that you'll call on us and your librarians.

Will the other MEPI librarians please stand up?

We are inviting you to our next workshop in November. Please join us for lunch.

GRACE: Our current projects:

Proposal on increasing access to African health research output through creation of institutional repositories and mine the gold that is right here in Africa

Proposal on mentoring health sciences librarians

Updating of the our website

ALISON: As we move forward, we want to:

Work in partnership with MEPI PIs and reach out to your librarians

Develop training programs for AHILA members and mentor health science librarians

Outreach to more users such as medical journal editors, policy makers and marginalised health care workers in urban and rural areas

Customise the training manual for specific audiences with reference to language and type of audience

GRACE: Way Forward

We reach out to various user groups within the health sector with information skills training

We plan to acquire, organise and make accessible locally produced health information for better health outcomes through institutional repositories

We partner with other groups such as MEPI to make a difference in healthcare delivery

ALISON: We'd like to acknowledge

The National Library of Medicine for the Associate Fellow program and for supporting NAML activities

Julia Royall for personal commitment, encouragement and support to NAML

Becky Lyon for support and encouragement to NAML

Our institutions and MEPI for support

GRACE: Thank you

Grace: [thank you in Amharic]

ALISON: Asante sana

GRACE: Obrigado/Obrigada

ALISON: Merci

QUESTIONS

African nDigital Health Library (ADHL)

ADHL

<https://library.adhl.africa>

The Network of African Medical Librarians

Workshops

2012

Network of African Medical Librarians presentation at MEPI Symposium 2012 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

<https://youtu.be/2-GIHNHgFNA>

Downloaded from African Digital Health Library (ADHL)