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SAVING LIVES: THE IMPACT OF A MEDLINE SEARCH ON PATIENT CARE

During March and April of 1993, a Search Evaluation Form was attached to all patient care related computer searches run by the Aurora Health Care Librarians. Clinicians were asked what impact the information provided by the Library had on the care of their patient.

Out of a total of 542 computer searches run during those two months, 129 were patient care related. (Other common reasons for requesting a computer search are for research or to prepare for a speech, paper, or change of policy). Forty-three search evaluations were returned for a 33% rate of return.

RESULTS: Thirty-six clinicians (84%) indicated that they would definitely or probably handle some aspect of the care of their patient differently because of the information provided by the Library. Five clinicians (12%) indicated that they did not handle any aspect of their patient's care differently.

Ten respondents (23%) avoided additional or unnecessary tests because of the information provided by the Library and 1 clinician avoided surgery. Another clinician avoided hospital-acquired infection. Two clinicians (5%) avoided hospital admission. Another 2 clinicians (5%) indicated that they avoided death of their patients. Other undesirable outcomes that were avoided included: 1) troublesome side effects of medication, 2) a medication delivered in a less effective way at higher cost, 3) chemotherapy, and 4) not meeting the needs of a grieving family.

Another area that the survey explored concerned what knowledge or actions were changed because of the delivered information. Two respondents (5%) changed their diagnosis, 14 (33%) changed their treatment plan, and 16 (37%) changed the advice they gave to their patients. One clinician noted that his knowledge of normal values changed, one changed her diagnostic evaluation, and one nurse changed her documentation process.

Thirty-four clinicians (79%) indicated that information from the Library contributed to better clinical decisions; 32 (74%) believed that the information provided by the Library resulted in higher quality care; 3 (7%) reported that information from the Library confirmed what they already knew.

These local results are quite similar to those of the Rochester Study reported in JAMA 1991 266(9): 1219-20. The results give some indication of the power and value of information resources in providing desirable patient care outcomes and high quality patient care as does the newer Lindberg Study in JAMA 1993 269(24): 3124-9.

- Kathleen Strube

NEW LIBRARY AT ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER!

The SLMC MEDICAL LIBRARY is pleased to announce that it is now located in larger and more technologically up-to-date quarters in the basement of the HEALTH SCIENCE 1 building. Improvements include a highly visible Information Desk, space for a future Computer Lab for teaching, a separate room for the Aurora Libraries Database Network equipment, floor to ceiling windows across one long side of the Library, and more space for books and journals (allowing for one alphabetical or classified arrangement). It will take a couple months before all of the new equipment and shelving is in place, however the Library Staff are confident that they will be able to provide for your information needs even better than before in their new home. Please come and visit us and ask for a tour!

SECURITY SYSTEM (SSMC)

Both Libraries of SSMC have installed security systems in an effort to curtail loss of books on both campuses.

Remember to check out books and journals properly. PRINT your name, department, and extension/pager number on the card in the book. Then give the card to the Librarian who will insert a date due card in the book as a reminder.
SOFTWARE REVIEW

The MAGAZINE ARTICLE FILER is finally here! Produced by RIGHT ON PROGRAMS at the cost of $129.00, this software program provides a way to keep those multitude of articles, clippings, and papers in order. No more scattered bulk; simply enter information such as title, author, date, subjects, etc. and what you need to remember.

Each entry is assigned a number that is also given to the written piece. The hardcopy is filed by the number. Later the data can be searched 18 different ways. When the computer entry is called up, the number points to the file with the article.

This program is for IBM compatibles. (Right On Programs, Huntington, NY; 516-424-7777)

LIBRARY SERVICES

THE SUGGESTION BOX

All three of the Aurora Libraries have suggestion boxes. One of our recent comments suggests community sharing of resources, especially with other hospitals.

We would like to respond to this suggestion. The Aurora Libraries do belong to a consortium of local hospital libraries whose main purpose is no charge sharing of journal articles. The consortium keeps a list of the journal holdings of each library. All members of the consortium readily fill requests on a daily basis. The consortium is also planning ahead and looking into an online catalog that would also include their book collections.

The Aurora Libraries also make use of an elaborate computerized routing system (DOCLINE) set up by the National Library of Medicine for requesting copies of journal articles and books. DOCLINE first routes requests to local libraries that do not charge each other, but also sends the request on to larger medical school libraries and out-of-state sources if necessary.

All libraries, including hospital libraries, depend on sharing agreements. If you would like your Aurora Library to borrow something for you or to let you know where you can go to use a certain information resource, just ask. We are happy to be of service.

Thank you for the suggestion. We would like to hear from others with ideas for improvement or with questions.

TRIVIA

1877: Illinois is the first state to mandate licensure of physicians through a state board of medical examiners who are empowered to reject diplomas from non-approved schools.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

SHARED ACQUISITION AND RETENTION (in the Aurora Libraries)

Whenever possible, duplicate journal titles between the three Aurora Libraries are to be eliminated. Those journal subscriptions chosen for elimination should reflect the least inconvenience to the particular patrons of the institution. Expensive titles are to be shared so that costs are contained.

Each campus library will keep titles which reflect the particular programs of the institution and those which are highly used.

Patrons will be freely provided with faxed articles from the other campuses.

The professional librarians and the manager of the libraries will decide which journals are to be retained by each institution. The decision is based upon the usage of particular titles in the individual institutions and the frequency with which items are retrieved from storage. Space allocation of storage facilities also is a consideration.

-Taken from the Policies & Procedures Manual of the Aurora Libraries

NEWS FROM SSMC LIBRARIES

The newest member of the SSMC Libraries' staff is Tina Slanc. Tina is a graduate from Mount Mary College with a BS degree in Consumer Science and an emphasis on health and nutrition. She will be pursuing a MS degree in Public Health. Some of her interests include biking, hiking, and membership in the Milwaukee Zoological Society. She is also looking into Clown School.

Tina works in the morning Monday through Friday switching between the West and East Campus Libraries. She helps with interlibrary loans, works with the computer, and helps with the organizational upkeep.

Also in the news, Mary Jo Baertschy, Librarian at the East Campus Library has been elected Presiding Officer of the Southeastern Wisconsin Health Science Library Consortium.

NEW PRACTICE GUIDELINES:

Two new clinical practice guidelines from the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research are available at your Aurora Health Care Libraries: 1) Depression in Primary Care, April 1993, and 2) Cataracts in Adults, February 1993.
NEW BOOKS

Medical Library - St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC)

MEDICARE HOSPITAL INFORMATION REPORT - RLO WT 30 M489 1992
CARE OF THE HIGH-RISK NEONATE - WS 420 K64c 1993
PERCUTANEOUS BALLOON VALVULOPLASTY - WG 260 P429 1992
HEALING AND THE MIND, Bill Moyers - W 61 M938 1993
THE RIGHTS OF PATIENTS - W 32.5 A613 1992
CANCER IMAGING MANUAL - QZ 39 S876c 1993
ESSENTIALS OF FAMILY MEDICINE - REF WB 110 E78 1993

NURSING LEADERSHIP: PREPARING FOR THE 21st CENTURY - WY 105 N97475 1993
DISEASES OF THE NOSE, THROAT, EAR, HEAD, AND NECK, J.J. Ballenger - REF WV 100 D612 1991

TALKING BOOKS:

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped's TALKING BOOK SERVICE is available through the St. Luke's Medical Library. This service provides various fiction and non-fiction books in audiocassette format.

The library is equipped with two special audio-cassette players that can be signed-out to patients during their hospital stay. The patient selects a few book titles from several catalogs provided by the National Library Service. The library staff will request these titles from the local chapter of the National Library Service and will receive them in a few days via the U.S. mail. The patient or the patient's nurse will be contacted to sign-out the materials. It is the responsibility of the patient or patient's nurse to return the materials to the Medical Library upon discharge from the hospital.

The Reference Collection

THE WORLD OF LEARNING is a directory that contains addresses, phone numbers, and other details for over 26,000 universities, colleges, schools of art and music, libraries, archives, learned societies, research institutes, museums and art galleries. Arranged alphabetically by country, each entry includes the date of foundation, membership, publications and reference sources, and a list of key academic staff and officials.

The editors of THE WORLD OF LEARNING gather information every year by sending a folder containing the previous year's proof to each entry. From time to time, political changes require new chapters or amalgamation of information as countries merge. For example, the dissolution of USSR and the secession of four of Yugoslavia's constituent republics account for nineteen new chapters this year.

THE WORLD OF LEARNING is located at the SLMC Medical Library (RLO AS 2 W927 1993)

TEXTBOOK OF RHEUMATOLOGY, W.N. Kelley - REF WE 544 T355 1993
MEASURING AND MANAGING PATIENT SATISFACTION, S.R. Steiber - W 85 S817m 1990
TRANSCATHETER THERAPY IN PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY, P.S. Rao - WS 290 T772 1993

Jamron Library - Sinai Samaritan Medical Center (West)

FETAL MONITORING INTERPRETATION, M.L. Chabniss - WQ 210 C112f 1993
GERIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSING, K.C. Buckwalter - WY 160 G369 1992
MANAGING HOSPITAL BASED PATIENT EDUCATION, AHA - REF 158,5 M266 1993
BASIC NUTRITION & DIET THERAPY, S.R. Williams - WB 400 M936n 1992
DRUG THERAPY IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY, 3d ed., W.F. Rayburn - REF WQ 240 D7929 1992
REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR NCLEX-RN, 6th ed., S.F. Smith - WY 18 R456 1993
MERCK MANUAL OF DIAGNOSIS & THERAPY: GYN/OB, PEDS, 16th ed. v.2 - WB 100 M555ms 1992
DATABASES ON THE AURORA LIBRARIES DATABASE NETWORK

CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature) is a non-NLM (National Library of Medicine) database that indexes over 300 nursing and allied health journals, publications of the American Nurses’ Association and the League for Nursing, and relevant articles from MEDLINE and other journals. Coverage is from 1983 on. It uses a controlled vocabulary similar to, but not identical to MeSH (the vocabulary of MEDLINE). CINAHL overlaps with MEDLINE, but there is no limit function on the CD Plus software to eliminate the overlap. Because of the different vocabulary, search strategies from CINAHL cannot be executed in any of the NLM databases, i.e., MEDLINE, CANCERLIT, or HEALTH, and vice versa.

SERVICE ASSESSMENT TEAM REPORTS NOW IN THE SLMC MEDICAL LIBRARY

Many service management teams at SLMC are busy identifying their primary customers and how they can better serve them. They are looking at one specific service at a time and the process in place to deliver that service. The goal is to discover and implement specific recommendations to enhance a service, deliver that service faster, or save money while providing the same or even better service.

For example, in 1992 the Food Management Department formed a Service Assessment team to look for ways to increase speed in delivering food trays to patients while maintaining the quality of food items and the foods’ appearance on the trays. Their final report includes 6 recommendations with notes on the status of their implementation.

LIBRARY HOURS

SSMC East Campus:  
Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

SSMC West Campus:  
Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

St. Luke’s Medical Library  
Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am - 10:30 pm

St. Luke’s Medical Center

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