Strengthening Medical Library Services in Ethiopia: TAAAC - Library Science Program

An international education collaboration

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Introduction

By 2018 the government of Ethiopia wishes to have 5,000 specialist MDs and PhDs and 10,000 Masters graduates. Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration (TAAAC) assists with strengthening capacity and sustainability in post-graduate programming at Addis Ababa University.

Methods & Materials

The TAAAC-LSP partnership will further develop medical and allied health library services, led by Sandra Kendall, Program Director for TAAAC-LSP Mount Sinai Hospital Toronto, Canada. The strengthening of medical library sciences at the College of Health Sciences, AAU is essential to successfully support the expansion of medical specialists, Masters and PhD graduate training programs.

Deliverables

- Ongoing distance learning and supply of training materials.
- To date over 2,000 requested current medical and allied health texts have been delivered to the Black Lion Hospital.
- Expansion of access to PTOLEMY Project for use by our East African affiliated researchers to the University of Toronto Libraries’ electronic resources.1
- First train the trainer event at Addis Ababa University for two weeks October 2011.
  - Initiation of Medical and Clinical Librarianship Skills and Evidence-Based Medicine knowledge transfer.
  - Provide access to and training support of clinical decision support resources.
  - Website Design course and support.

Success

- Over 130 learners participated in the October 2011 medical library literacy training workshops.
- The highlight of the training session was the Doctor and Nursing co-training sessions conducted jointly by Alemayehu Bisrat and Sandra Kendall.
- Our partnership could not be successful without our culturally relevant pre-departure briefings.
- Our training sessions continue to reinforce and sustain medical library literacy skills for librarians through an inter-professional exchange of in-country and distance training.
- Continue to specialize medical library literacy training for doctors, students, researchers, nurses, pharmacists, patients and their families.
- Improve clinical decision making and patient outcomes by promoting the use of best evidence and teaching best practice medical library research methodologies.

Next Steps

- Continue to embrace Inter-professional cooperation.
- Position TAAAC-LSP as a model for other academic disciplines (example TAAAC-Family Medicine) and template for other university partnerships.
- Partner to operationalize the workflow for the new Central Medical Library building currently under construction in Addis Ababa.

Deliverables


S. Kendall2, A. Bisrat3, A. Alem4, N. Byrne5, N. Animut3, M. Derbrew3, C. Pain1; 1University of Toronto, Psychiatry, M5G 1X5, ON/CA, 2Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, ON/CA, 3Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa/ET, 4Addis Ababa University, Toronto/ET, 5University of Toronto, Toronto, ON/CA; Key Contact: Sandra Kendall, akendall@mtsaini.on.ca