



# Nourishing the Garden for Evidence Based Health Care: Initial Steps in Establishing a Clinical Librarian Program at a Comprehensive Cancer Center

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## The Fallow Field

- Library supposed to serve entire organization—clinical, research, administrative, education
- Needs assessment revealed many unmet clinical needs
- Library staff usually engaged with clinicians when they came to us, with little proactive outreach or integration with the clinical enterprise
- A retirement left a position open that could be reconfigured to address clinical needs
- Goal: design new position & program to ensure support and relevance

## Preparing the Soil

- Goal: Create a fertile environment for the new program by involving stakeholders (physicians, EHR, nurses, quality and safety, clinical researchers, social workers, & patient educators) from the outset to ensure relevance and build excitement and engagement
- Meet with stakeholders to determine level and direction of interest
- Share draft position description with them and key clinical committees to mold final version

## Planting Crops

- Invite stakeholders to serve on search committee
- On-site interviews included meetings with search committee members & others from their areas
- All Medical Center staff invited to candidate presentations
- Everyone who met with candidates or attended presentations asked for feedback
- **Challenges: Search slow & cumbersome**
  - Hard to schedule busy clinicians
  - Hard to get consensus from diverse group

## Tending the Garden

- Clinical Librarian's first step: **make contacts**
  - Quality/Patient Safety
  - Nursing Education
  - Nursing researchers
  - Nursing & Patient Services team
  - Patient & Family Education
  - Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation Program
  - Chief Medical Information Officer (CMIO)
  - Nurse Practitioner Journal Club
  - Sheri and Les Biller Patient and Family Resource Center / Department of Supportive Care Medicine

## The First Harvest (and a few weeds)

- Search process built support & excitement and created a group of advocates for the program
- Clinical Librarian integrated quickly into key groups – CME Team, VTE Team, Safe Patient Team
- **Challenges: Victim of own success**
  - 50+ searches – most taking multiple hours
  - Many groups needing introduction to EndNote
  - Little time left to reach out to new contacts or follow-up with old

## Future Harvests

- Train clinicians in good evidence-based practices and continuous learning habits
- Work with Biller Resource Center on web sites for the different patient support groups
- Work with education teams to raise awareness of health literacy issues
- Work with CMIO on providing evidence for electronic order sets
- Integrate library into the process to obtain Magnet® certification
- Set up online training course in current alerting & EndNote