



AFMC

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada
L'Association des facultés de médecine du Canada

The AFMC Resource Group on Libraries

Report to the AFMC Board of Directors

May 2011

**ASSOCIATION OF FACULTIES OF MEDICINE OF CANADA /
L'ASSOCIATION DES FACULTÉS DE MÉDECINE DU CANADA
RESOURCE GROUP ON LIBRARIES/GROUPE RESSOURCE DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES**

DATE: 15 April 2010

TO: AFMC Board of Directors

FROM: Suzanne Maranda, Queen's University
Chair, AFMC Resource Group on Libraries

SUBJECT: Annual Report 2011

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1. Increased costs for licensed resources, particularly scholarly journals – publishers are finding new ways to increase the price for their publications, for example through the creative use of tiers which are regularly redefined; through hiving off groups or individual journals and selling them separately while the initial package remains at the same price; with remote access requiring an extra level of payment; by including affiliated hospitals in the price without consultation with the academic library. The annual increases are quickly becoming unsustainable and in some instances are so large (40-700%) that we need expert negotiators to bring them to a reasonable cost, if even possible! In some cases we have had to cancel the subscription and we are worried that this will become more frequent.

2. Canadian Virtual health Library

The first of three years of CIHR funding is almost over. Project staff has been hired and are actively preparing for the first products to be licensed nationally. They are working with existing library consortia across the country to select resources and will negotiate with vendors in the coming months. The CVHL staff are actively looking for stakeholders to increase their current budget and secure on-going funding. We would welcome the involvement of the AFMC Board to help lobby governments at all levels to achieve our pan-Canadian goal of access to quality information by all health care professionals.

3. Update on NRC-CISTI

The 70% budget cuts have been implemented and the re-organization is now completed. CISTI has developed a new business plan which defines its primary role to be serving NRC scientists. A national role remains that includes support to the health sector. As mentioned in earlier reports, CISTI will continue to develop and manage PubMed Central Canada. CISTI offers support in kind to the Canadian

Virtual Health Library (see below) and it has become a Trusted Digital Repository to archive NRC publications, with other departments to follow (Health Canada). CISTI is also one of the founding members of DataCite, an international consortium committed to increasing access to research data. Datasets would be assigned a DOI (a permanent identifier) so that they can be linked and easily accessed via the Internet.

4. Collection Preservation in the digital age

Librarians are very concerned about the long-term impact of virtual collections on our national knowledge base. Most libraries are removing print materials to increase user space and most new materials are purchased in online formats only. When an online journal subscription is cancelled, online access to prior years may frequently be lost, even though the library paid for the subscription for those years. A national strategy is needed to ensure that we have at least one archival copy, regardless of format, for science, technology and health publications.

5. 2011 CCME meeting activities

The annual business meeting of the Resource Group on Libraries will be held on Sunday May 8, 2011. As well, the group is planning a workshop on Monday May 9 entitled "Health Informatics Competencies: what are they, where are they, and why should you care?". A recent survey of medical schools indicates that most schools are not training medical students on the skills required for them to be proficient in this area. The librarians will explore what role they may be able to play to improve the situation at their own institution. It is hoped that faculty educators will join us in this discussion.

6. About AFMC libraries

Statistics collected for **2009-10**, 14 schools participated:

- Libraries answered over 150,000 questions
- 4, 432 literature searches were performed for faculty and staff (7 libraries offer this service)
- Librarians taught a total of 2542 group sessions to 42,513 participants
- Over 4100 individuals met with a librarian for a one-on-one consultation
- Libraries borrowed 38,634 documents and they supplied 50,990 (total for 11/14 libraries)
- Librarians design online course modules (11/14) and library assignments (12/14)
- Librarians participate in faculty committees (11/14), including curriculum planning committees (13/14)
- Courses to teach information-related skills are included in the curriculum and librarians mark assignments for grades (10/14)
- Librarians participate in faculty-led research (12/14)

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Maranda
Chair, RGL/GRB