Research Support in Health Sciences Libraries:
A Scoping Review

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Conflict of Interest

None to declare

About Us

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Overview

- How this project was initiated

- Methods

- Preliminary results

- Lessons learned so far

Background

uOttawa Health Sciences Library reviewing research services currently offered in preparation for standardizing and formalizing them

A bit about uOttawa HSL….

- Medicine, Health Sciences, Life Sciences, no Dentistry or Pharmacy
- Medicine & Health Sciences students: 7,000+
- Medicine & Health Sciences faculty: 2,500+
- Annual HSL gate count 2015-2016: 159,582

Background (con't)

Information gathering exercise to better help us assess our own services (in other words, what are other libraries offering?)

- Environmental scan of Canadian academic health sciences library libguides/webpages

- Phone calls with librarians at various institutions for details about their services

- Literature review

Realized:

A) a lot of interest

B) everyone seems to be wondering the same things

C) no synthesis currently exists in the literature -- and that this would make a great scoping review

Scoping Review

"...aim to map the literature on a particular topic or research area and provide an opportunity to identify key concepts; gaps in the research; and types and sources of evidence to inform practice, policymaking, and research" (Daudt et al., 2013)

Arksey & O'Malley Framework (2005)

1. **Searching** the published literature

2. **Selecting** relevant studies

3. **Extracting** data from each included study

4. **Charting** the data (categorizing studies)

5. **Summarizing** the data

6. **Consulting** with knowledge users to interpret (optional)

Objective

What services do academic and clinical health sciences libraries offer to their researchers in addition to "traditional" library services?

Methods: Selection Criteria

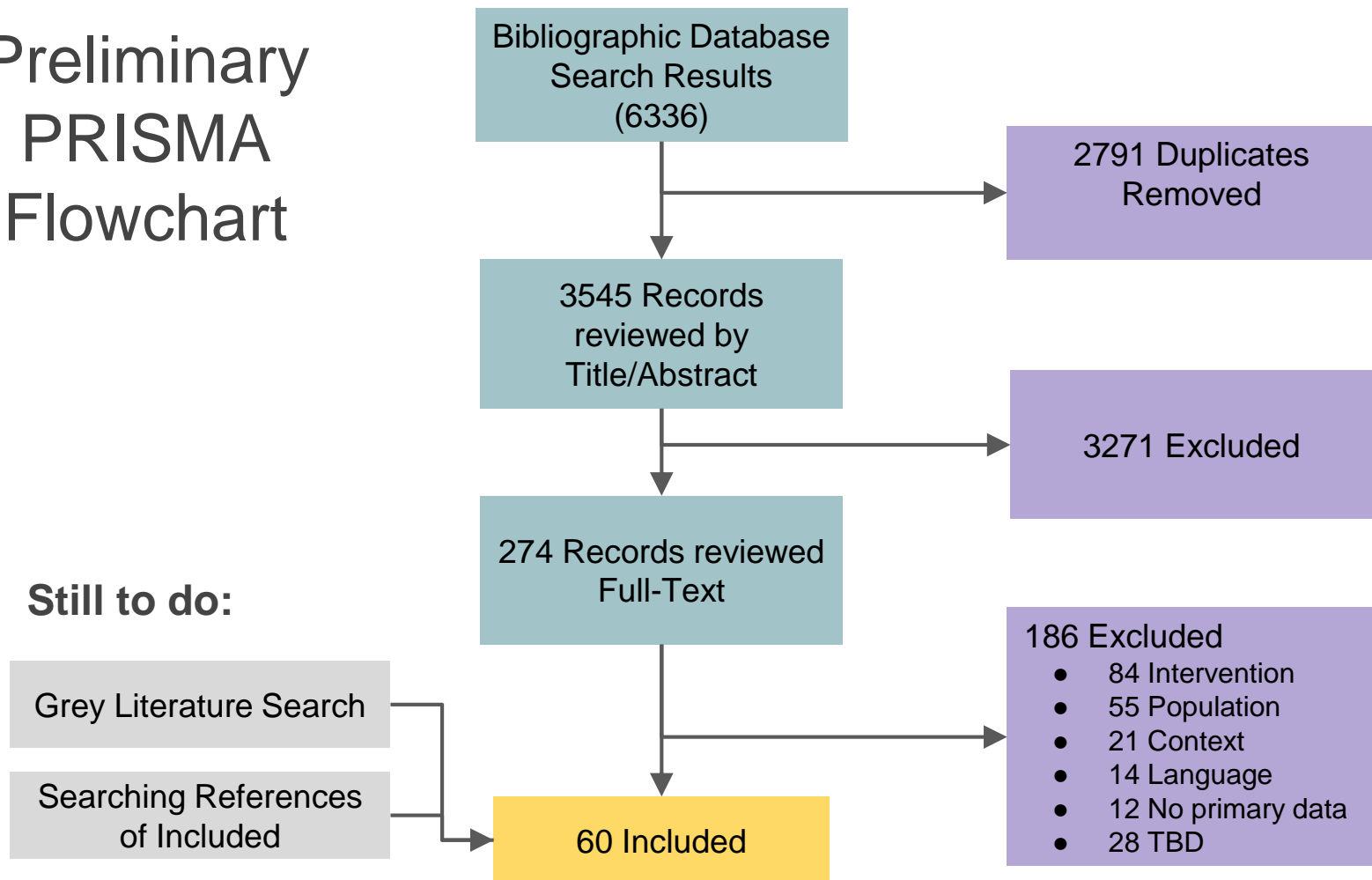| PICOS	Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Population	Researchers must be main population of interest (or major subgroup)	Undergraduate populations may not meet inclusion (case by case)
Intervention	Research* support services ● formalized search support ● research instruction ● research librarian ● formal data management support	Support services traditionally provided by libraries regardless of researcher population. ● document delivery ● Reference ● loaning of materials
Setting	● Academic health sciences libraries (including Science libraries that serve health sciences/medical students) ● Hospital libraries ● Special health sciences/medical libraries	● Non health sciences/medical library contexts (e.g. veterinary)

Methods: Search Strategy (Medline)

1. librarians/
2. exp libraries/
3. library science/
4. library services/
5. librar*.ti,ab,kw.
6. or/ 1-5
7. research support as topic/
8. research personnel/
9. research/
10. (research* adj7 (service? or support or facilitat*)).ti,ab,kw.
11. (systematic review* adj7 (service? or support or facilitat*)).ti,ab,kw.
12. (synthes?s adj7 (service? or support or facilitat*)).ti,ab,kw.
13. (scholarly activit* adj7 (service? or support or facilitat*)).ti,ab,kw.
14. or/ 7-13
15. biomedical.ti,ab,hw,kw.
16. medical.ti,ab,hw,kw.
17. clinical.ti,ab,hw,kw.
18. health.ti,ab,hw,kw.
19. medicine.ti,ab,hw,kw.
20. dental.ti,ab,hw,kw.
21. dentist*.ti,ab,hw,kw.
22. nurs$3.ti,ab,hw,kw.
23. or/15-22
24. 6 and 14 and 23

Methods: Databases Searched

Databases searched February 11, 2017:

- Medline

- EMBASE

- Education Resource Information Centre (ERIC)

- Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA)

- Library and Information Science Source (LISS)

- Scopus

- Web of Science Core Collection

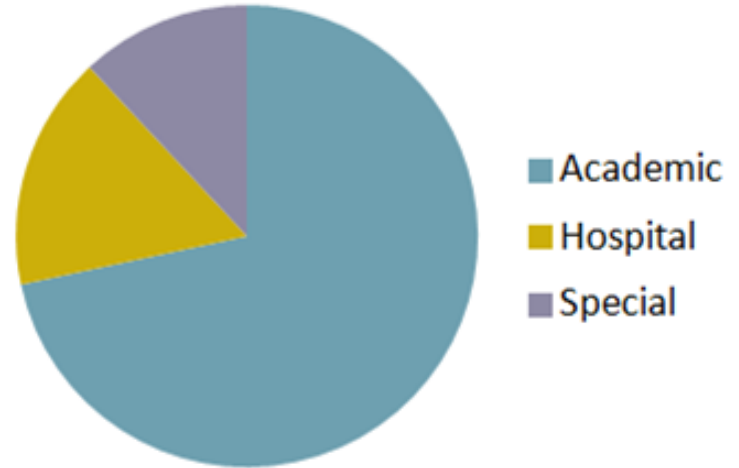+ Advanced Google search for grey literature (underway)
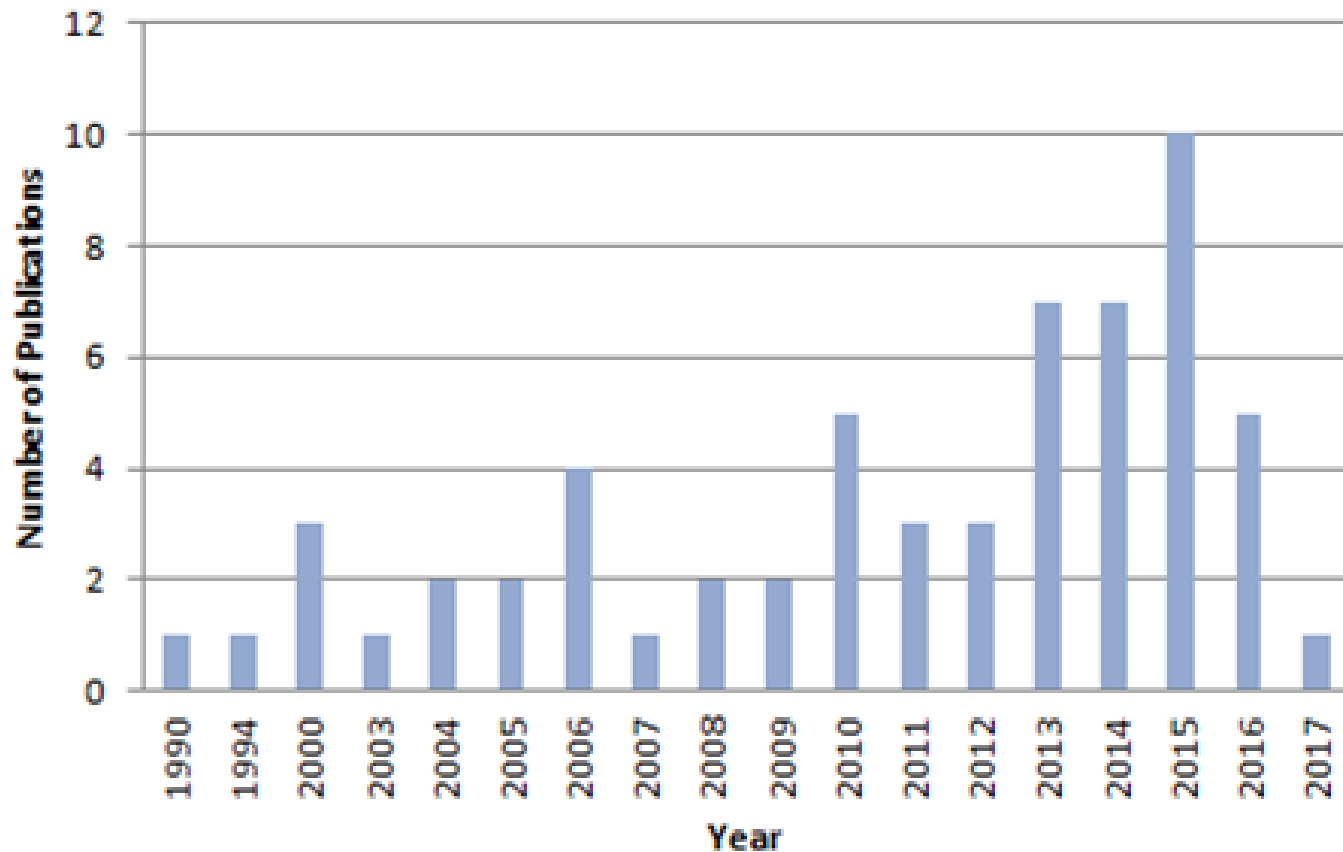
Preliminary PRISMA Flowchart

Bibliographic Database Search Results (6336)

2791 Duplicates Removed

3545 Records reviewed by Title/Abstract

3271 Excluded

274 Records reviewed Full-Text

186 Excluded
- 84 Intervention
- 55 Population
- 21 Context
- 14 Language
- 12 No primary data
- 28 TBD

Still to do:

Grey Literature Search

Searching References of Included

60 Included

Results: Publication Information

Distribution By Country

Country	Number of Studies
United States	46
Canada	6
United Kingdom	5
Multiple	2
South Africa	1

Library Types Represented

- Academic
- Hospital
- Special
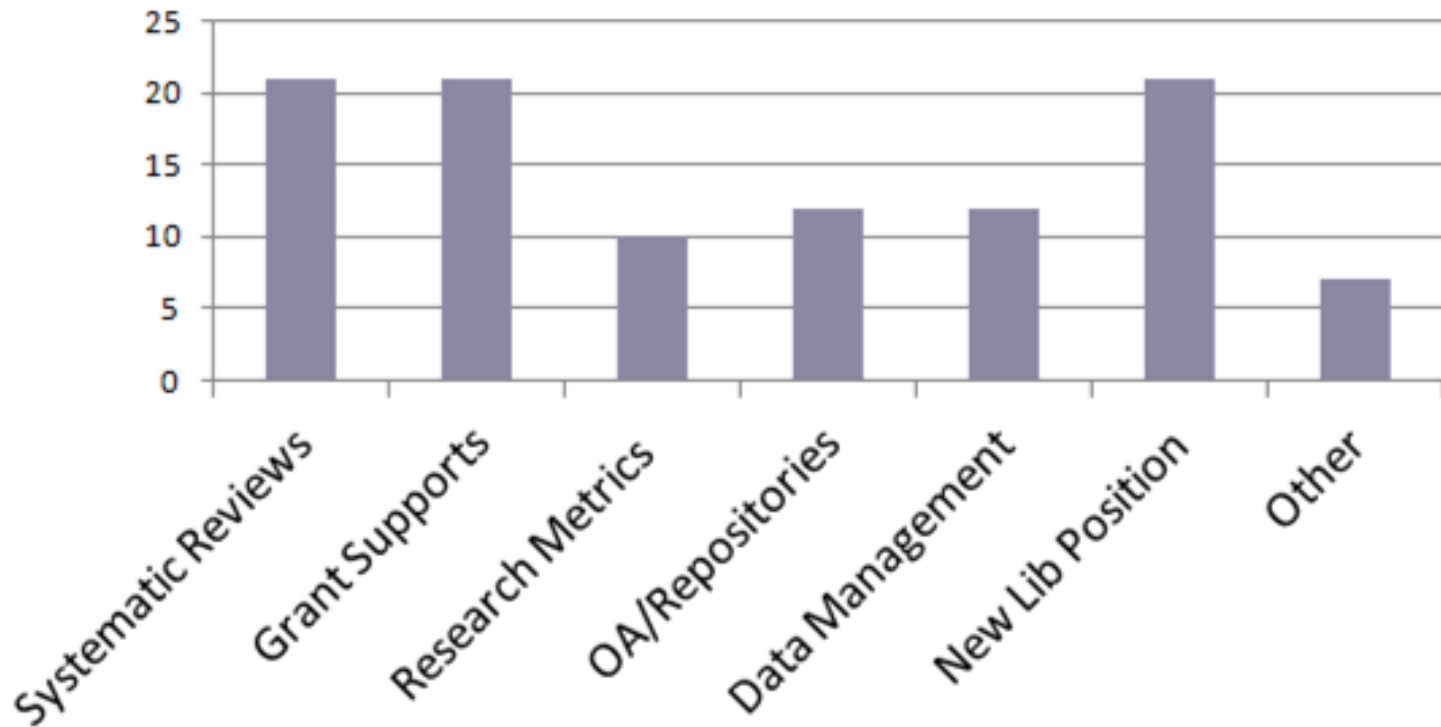
Number of Publications by Year
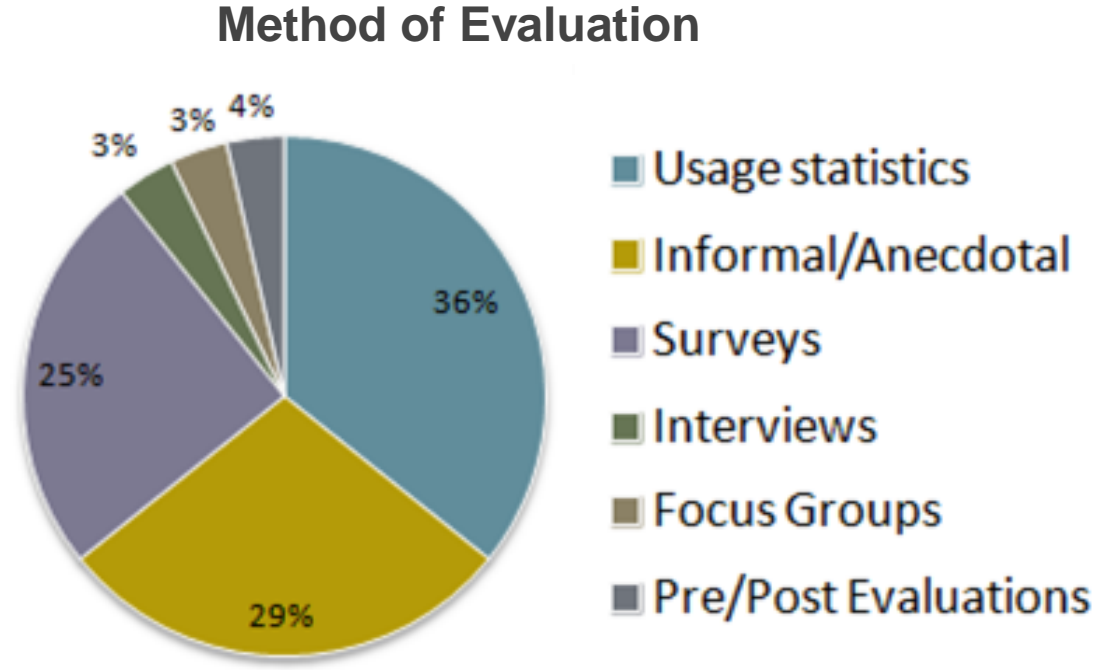
Results: Service Types

Results: "Other" Services

- Research Audit Model to discover connections between researchers and projects

- Liaise with IRBs, serve on Clinical Scientific Review Committee

- Creation of a small satellite library in the North Campus Research Complex (NCRC)

- Support for profiling and collaboration tools, support for social media

Results: Evaluation

Only **25 of 60** studies reported any kind of service evaluation

Method of Evaluation

Pie chart:
- Usage statistics: 36%
- Informal/Anecdotal: 29%
- Surveys: 25%
- Interviews: 3%
- Focus Groups: 3%
- Pre/Post Evaluations: 4%

Discussion

Support services kind of what we expected, but looking forward to getting into results at more granular level

- How are services marketed?

- What boundaries are other libraries setting for their services (e.g. systematic reviews)?

- What patron groups are they targeting?

Discussion (con't)

- Surprised by small representation from UK (n=5), and Australia (n=0) that met inclusion, especially given number of databases we searched

  - What medlib journals do UK librarians publish in? Are we missing them?

- Very little in the way of formal evaluation (only 40% of articles mentioned evaluation)

Lessons learned so far...

- Direct experience = better support our researchers

- Citation management software: Rayyan, Covidence

- Creating/applying selection criteria is hard!

- Great experience working with librarians from different settings (academic, satellite, hospital) → great perspectives, sharing of resources

- Importance of collaborative communication software

Conclusions

- Still in process (grey literature search, references searches still underway) but preliminary results (n=60) really interesting

- First knowledge synthesis on this topic, hopefully will help other libraries undergoing similar benchmarking exercises

- So much work goes into planning and launching new services → importance of publishing high quality evaluation (collective can benefit from successes, and avoid failures)

Acknowledgements

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Questions?

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