Considering the Place of Practice-based Evidence within EBLIP

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EBP in LIS

- Adapted from a medical model
- Creation of critical appraisal guidelines, workshops, continuing education
- Main focus on research evidence
- Criticisms re: exclusion of qualitative research evidence, narrowness of the hierarchy of evidence, etc

The problem

- What about other things librarians use in decision making, like usage stats, user feedback, our own knowledge of a particular situation? There has to be a place for these types of things. What is that place?

- Is formal, published research, always the best evidence?

Research Questions

- In the practice of librarianship, what types of evidence influence our decision making?

- How do we account for non-research evidence in EBLIP? Where does it fit?

What is evidence?

- Higgs and Jones (2000) note that evidence is "knowledge derived from a variety of sources that has been subjected to testing and has found to be credible."

- The Oxford English Dictionary states that evidence is "something serving as a proof" (OED, 2011).

A practice-based perspective

Practice theory

- "embodied capacities such as know-how, skills, tacit understanding, and dispositions."
  - Schatzi 2001, p.7.

Knowing in practice

- Knowing how and knowing that – Ryle, 1946
- Tacit knowledge – Polyani, 1966
- Knowing is in our action – Schön, 1983

Practice-based evidence in other professions

- Gabbay and Le May (2011) – medicine and nursing
- Fox (2003) - sociology
- Rolfe, Jasper and Freshwater (2011) – healthcare
- Rycroff-Malone, et al. (2004) – nursing
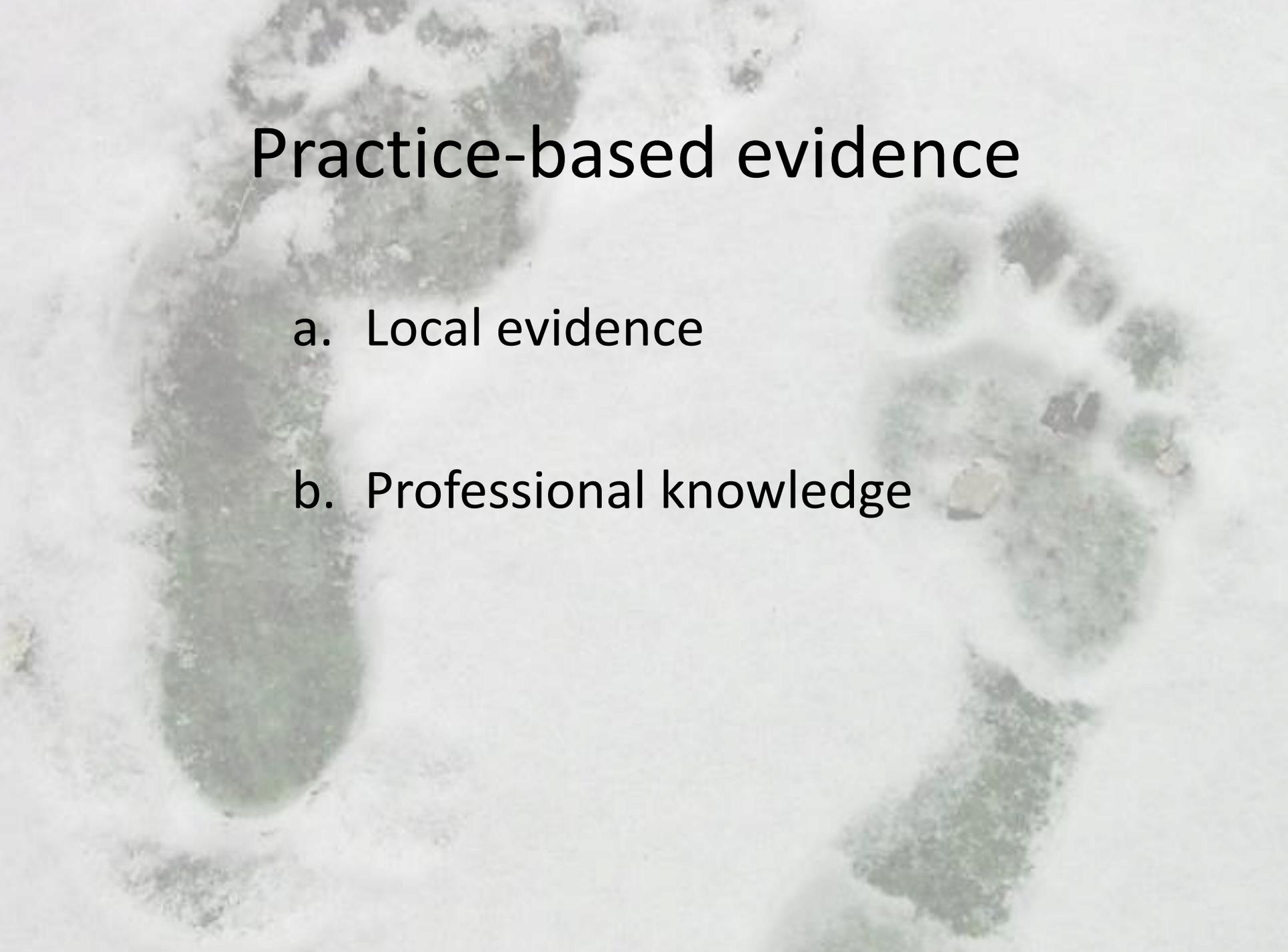
Practice-based evidence

a. Local evidence

b. Professional knowledge

Local evidence examples

o Patron feedback

o Librarian observation

o Reports from colleagues

o Assessment and evaluation of programs

o Usage data

o Organizational directions

Professional knowledge examples

o Formal and informal learning

o On the job training

o Tacit knowledge

o Reflection

E.g.

    o How to build good collections

    o How to deal effectively with people

The ART of our practice.

Bringing the evidence sources together

Ask yourself...

- What do I already know?
- What local evidence is available?
- What does the literature say?
- What other information do I need to gather?
- How does the information I have apply to my context?
- Make a decision
- What worked? What didn't? What did I learn?
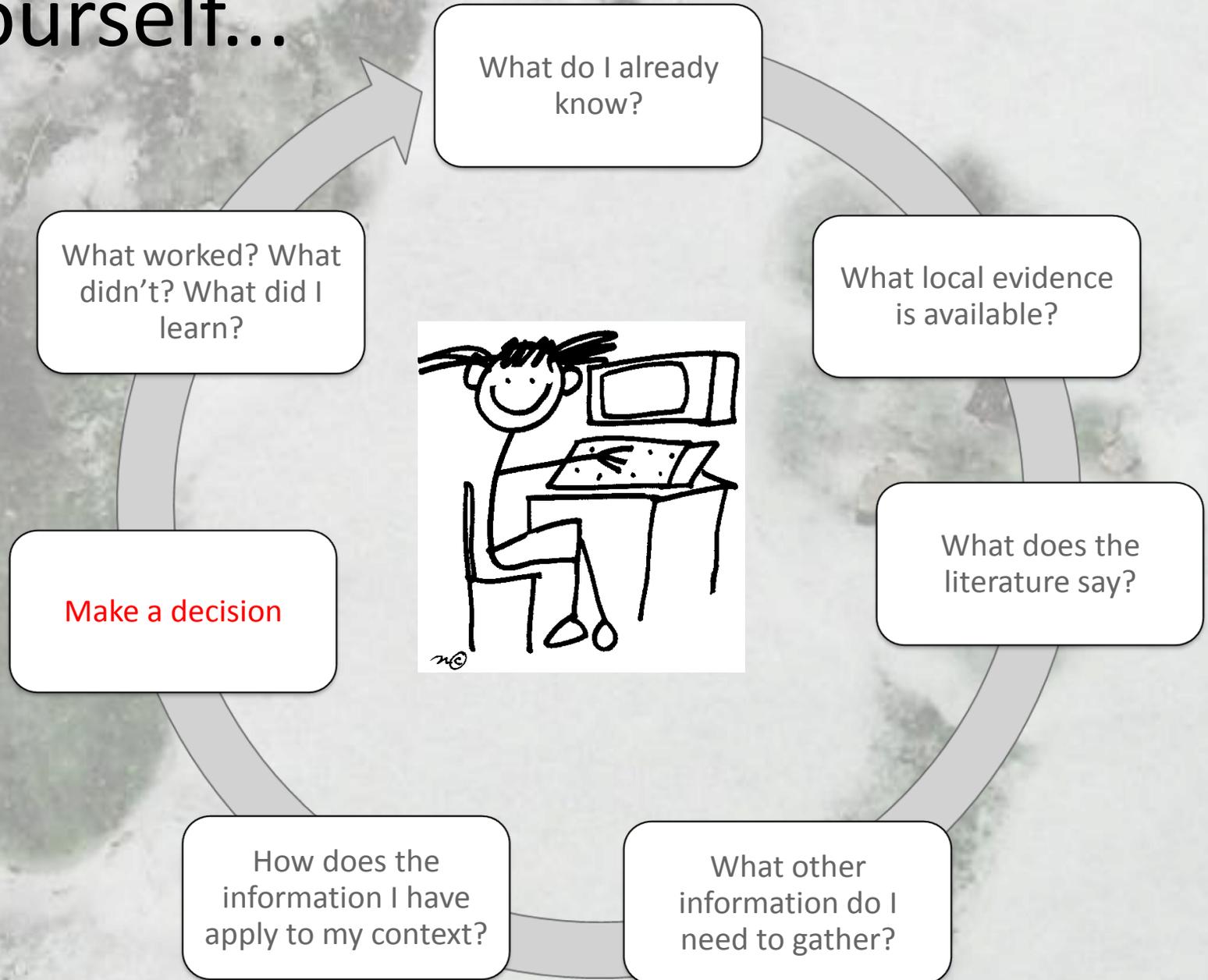
THANK YOU!

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