

BEST PRACTICES OF MEDICAL LIBRARIANS IN MALAYSIA

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Medical libraries have a crucial role in supplying vital information to medical practitioners, enabling them to make well-informed decisions, particularly regarding clinical effectiveness and desired health outcomes. It is essential for medical librarians to effectively demonstrate and communicate the value of their services, establishing partnerships with similar entities to broaden the range of information available and expedite the search for necessary resources. In Malaysia, medical librarians adhere to a set of best practices to facilitate access to accurate and current medical information for healthcare professionals, researchers, and students. A comprehensive understanding of the development of medical libraries across the nation, including the services and facilities they offer, is essential. Some of the best practices are in collection development, information retrieval, reference services, collaborative partnership, access to open-access resources, and continuous professional development. Furthermore, medical librarians must continually update and enhance their knowledge in response to the rapidly evolving technological advancements in the medical field in order to meet the information needs of their users. The Medical Librarians Group (MLG), which operates under the Librarians Association of Malaysia, was established in 1997. Since then, the MLG has organized various activities and initiatives to enhance the professional capabilities of Malaysian librarians, particularly in the field of Health Sciences Librarianship. Medical libraries in Malaysia provide a diverse range of facilities and services to support their users, particularly those affiliated with medical institutions. As essential providers of reference sources in the medical field, these libraries are poised to further evolve and expand their offerings. It is crucial for medical librarians to continuously update their knowledge and skills to keep pace with the rapid advancements in medical technology and effectively address the information requirements of their users.

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