

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP 2

A Framework For Implementing Science Cafes in Hospital Libraries

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Abstract

Introduction

Libraries have long been a place for disseminating and promoting information and knowledge. In the meantime, hospital libraries, according to their mission, have the task of promoting evidence-based information in the field of medicine. Local science cafes are for people to gather to discuss and share knowledge. Science Cafes can have multiple purposes and can be used in a variety of contexts. The first series of Science Café events was organized in Hungary between 2004 and 2010 ("Hungary Sustainable Science Café"). The purpose of this article is to provide a framework for implementing science cafes in hospital libraries in Iran.

Method

This study was conducted with a qualitative approach and using a non-structured interview method with librarians and health professionals to implement scientific cafes. A total of 10 medical librarians working in hospital libraries in Iran and 10 specialists in various fields of medicine participated in these interviews. Data analysis was performed using NViVo software.

Results

The analysis of the interviews shows that libraries have the necessary potential to set up scientific cafes. From the librarians' point of view, the necessary infrastructure for setting up these cafes is: budget, space, culture of knowledge sharing and human resources. The necessary infrastructure for the implementation of scientific cafes in hospital libraries, according to health experts, also includes: planning and policy-making of hospital managers to hold informal meetings in scientific cafes, changing the beliefs and attitudes of physicians towards sharing. Experiences and information in science cafes, defining new missions for medical libraries and holding training courses for librarians to reach new horizons.

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Discussion

Hospital libraries in Iran are ready to implement this idea and to set up scientific cafes on the library site need to develop programs and strategies related to the field of knowledge management and attract sponsors to financially support this idea.

Keywords: Science Cafes, Hospital Library, Health Information, Medical Librarians



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