

Systematic Review Service From the Koç University (KU) Health Sciences Library (HSL)

Ertay Nebioğlu*

Background

Academic libraries' services need to reflect and meet the information and research needs of the academic community they serve, developed in a way that releases researchers from burdens and uplifts the research findings. Koç University Health Sciences Library has been supporting its community with systematic review as part of evidence synthesis – , providing the roadmap for a high-quality, transparently reported search. With the librarians having the necessary skills to conduct a successful search strategy, an integral part of the systematic review process, the service helps in following an unbiased, reproducible way to evaluate the viability of a topic based on the available literature.

Aims

The aim of this study is; to improve the Koç University Health Sciences Library's established service on how to find, synthesize and use health research evidence, defining relevant library resources, developing a comprehensive research strategy, developing the required protocol, using a citation management software, and advising on how to synthesize findings.

Methods

Only during the 2020, the Koç University Health Sciences Library received sixteen (16) individual requests by researchers and faculty members from the Koç University School of Medicine, School of Nursing and the Koç University Hospital covering all medical and health sciences disciplines, on various topics. Six (6) of them were COVID-19 related topics, intentioned to be used on the improvement of medical treatment and policy development. The Library team committed to provide guidance on which methodology best suited each case and drew the path of the standardized process. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, requests were usually sent via e-mail. Since the library remained closed and on site meetings were not an option, telephone interviews with the researchers were made occasionally. In addition, support was offered to researchers remotely, via Microsoft Teams and Zoom. Aiming to improve the service and expand it further with other types of evidence synthesis, the Library team conducted a "service satisfaction" survey.

* Koç University Health Sciences Library; Turkey; enebioglu@ku.edu.tr

Findings were used not only to evaluate, re-design and upgrade the current service, but also to create a solid basis to expand the service across all disciplines.

Conclusion

The year 2020 has been a busy year for KU HSL in terms of systematic review requests. This increase in the demands revealed the necessity of improving the systematic review service and making this service more visible. Thereupon, a questionnaire was shared with the researchers who had received this service before, and the adequacy of the service the library team provided was tested according to the results of the questionnaire. With the feedback from the survey results, the scope of the service to be developed was determined and the demands of the researchers were collected. The researchers stated that they were mostly satisfied with the service they received and that this service could be applied to other areas.

Moving forward with the decided plan, the library team is working on the development of a webpage that will serve as the reference point for those interested in the service and the creation of a related LibGuide.

In the context of a complete support package on the Systematic Review process, the Library team has been offering trainings to the academic community. The trainings are offered both in Turkish and in English and are tailored to the information needs and expectations of each audience.

Bibliography

1. Dudden, R. F., & Protzko, S. L. (2011). The Systematic Review Team: Contributions of the Health Sciences Librarian. *Medical Reference Services Quarterly*, 30(3), 301-315. doi:10.1080/02763.869.2011.590425
2. Harris, M. R. (2005). The librarian's roles in the systematic review process: a case study. *Journal of the Medical Library Association : JMLA*, 93(1), 81-87.
3. Spencer, A. J., & Eldredge, J. D. (2018). Roles for librarians in systematic reviews: a scoping review. *Journal of the Medical Library Association : JMLA*, 106(1), 46-56. doi:10.5195/jmla.2018.82