



From Artsy to Zany: Hospital Library Committee Participation



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Abstract

Objective

To identify committees in which hospital librarians are currently participating.

Methods

Currently, what types of hospital committees have librarians as members? What opportunities exist within hospitals for librarians to get involved? Hospital librarians and the role of hospital librarians continue to evolve, often requiring both to find new ways to increase visibility within their institution. We propose that one way to increase visibility is to participate in committee work. A survey of hospital librarians and their current participation in committees is conducted. Survey results will be shared with colleagues so they can discover ways that librarians are involved with hospital committees. This list of committees, and other shared information, will help librarians think about and develop new ways to become involved in their own institutions. A biostatistician will assist with data analysis.

Results

There were 327 responses to the survey. Respondents participated in a total of 1,583 committees with a median participation of 4.0 committees per respondent. Committees were categorized with involvement in the following areas: Education (41.8%), Administration (23.6%), Technology (9.4%), Research (6.9%), Clinical (6.0%), Nursing (4.5%), Support Services (3.8%), Human Resources (3.2%), and Facilities (0.8%). On a five-point scale where 5 was "very positive," the mean score for respondents rating how committee participation affected the library was 4.1. A compiled list of committees and selected comments from librarians regarding their involvement will be available.

Conclusion

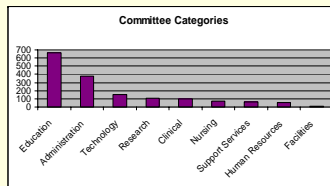
Committee participation positively affects the visibility of the library and the librarian. This project can provide librarians suggestions of hospital committees that may benefit from their participation.

Respondent Characteristics

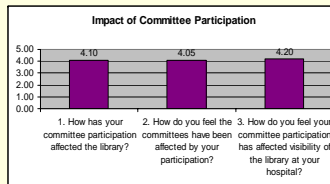
- Number of respondents: 327
- Number currently participating in at least one committee: 309
- Median number of hospital beds at respondent's institution: 307
- Number of solo librarians: 164
- Average years of experience as a librarian: 15.42
- Median number of committees per respondent: 4.0
- Total number of committees reported by the 309 respondents: 1583
- Maximum number of committees participated in by one respondent: 24
- Number of respondents providing anecdotal information about their committee work: 83 (only three of the anecdotes were negative toward their committee work)

No Committee Participation

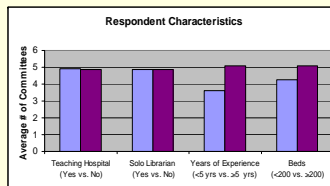
- 18 (5.5%) responded that they do not currently participate in a committee at their hospital
- Reasons provided include:
 - 11 not invited
 - 4 other library staff participate
 - 2 no time
 - 3 other reasons



Respondents participated in a total of 1583 committees. There were 113 unique committees reported. The 1583 committees were categorized into these nine illustrated on the graph. The graph shows the distribution of the committees.



Questions shown on graph were answered on a 5-point scale. In questions 1 and 2, 1=very negatively and 5=very positively. In question 3, 1=greatly decrease and 5=greatly increase.



There was no significant difference in the average number of committees in relation to whether the respondent was at a teaching hospital or not. In addition, the level of participation did not differ for solo librarians. There was, however, a significant difference in relation to years of experience and the number of hospital beds.

Top 25 Committees

Listed below are the 25 committees most frequently cited in survey responses.

Library	165
Continuing Medical Education	148
Patient Education	122
Information Management	69
Nursing Research	60
Patient/Family Advisory	55
Management Council	54
Medical Education (General)	46
Nursing Education	46
Professional Staff Development	41
General Staff Education	40
Graduate Medical Education	38
Internet	35
Health Information Management/Medical Records	34
Magnet Recognition	34
Evidence-Based Practice/Medicine	32
Institutional Review Board	28
Leadership Council	27
Ethics	27
Quality Improvement/Management;CQI Teams	24
Policies & Procedures	21
Safety/EOC	20
Community Outreach	20
Performance Improvement	18
Patient Safety	17



The Art Committee handles the policies, inventory, and placement of all artwork in the system—from prints in patient rooms (which can be exchanged to suit the patient's preference) to donated original works on display in public areas. The Interior Design Committee worked with a professional designer to develop a master plan for interior surfaces, colors, furnishings, fabrics—intended to take us into the future as inevitable changes are made. Our beautiful location on the Maine coast includes lovely mature gardens, visible from patient rooms, that are considered an important part of our healing atmosphere. With the help of a local landscape architect, the Landscape Committee plans and oversees the care of the gardens and grounds at the hospital and at its two nursing homes. The results are rewarding every day of the year.

- Patty Kahn, MSLIS, AHIP – Penobscot Bay Medical Center



My participation on the Nursing Research Committee has led to some zany ideas and projects. A discussion about evidence-based practice and PICO questions resulted in the use of PICO Jars on the units. Nurses and other staff place their questions in the jar to be picked up by the unit educators. I provide backup for tough questions. We had thought about wearing the Dr. Seuss PICO Hat when making rounds but this hasn't happened. At least not yet! This photo represents "PICO in the PICU."

- Kathy Zebliksy, MLS – Phoenix Children's Hospital