



Impact of Covid-19 on Academic Health Sciences Library Programs and Services: Lessons Learned

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Background

RDAP Conference
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Methodology

- ▶ Three surveys
 - ▶ April 2020—qualitative & quantitative survey
 - ▶ August 2020—qualitative survey
 - ▶ February 2021—qualitative survey
- ▶ Analyzed and then coded the qualitative data

Media	Codes																														
	3D printing	Budget Reduction	Closing	Collaborations	Consultations	Course Reserves	COVID-19 Support	External Communication	Good Quotes	ILL & Document Delivery	Internal Communication	Lessons Learned	LibGuides	Library Building	Library services	Literature searching	New Opportunities	Online Collections	Online Instruction	Organizational Support	PPE support	Print collection	Reopen Planning	Skills Needed	Staff	Systematic Reviews	Technology	Telecommuting	Unsure	Wellness and Wellbeing	Totals
Library First Survey Data	11		6	26	11	7	36	38	19	13	59	100	29	45	26	13	26	8	27	12	7	14	21	25	21	6	26	64	21	40	757
Library Second Survey Data.docx		22			10	3		1	11	9	23	13		24	27	1	1	3	8	2		11	37	1	30	2	3	11	12	13	278
Third Survey.docx		5			6				3	5	13	4		15	12			2	5				5	2	19	1		9	2	10	118
Totals	11	27	6	26	27	10	36	39	33	27	95	117	29	84	65	14	27	13	40	14	7	25	63	28	70	9	29	84	35	63	

Lessons learned





New service models and new opportunities

- ▶ Easy or very easy to transition most library services to a remote working environment (65%)
- ▶ Physical staffing of libraries -Limited/staggered/hybrid staffing
- ▶ Library space temporarily used for hospital support
- ▶ Literature searching/synthesis of COVID-19 information
- ▶ Developing and teaching medical student electives
- ▶ Library's data core used to house COVID-19 patient data sets



Staff Support

- ◀ Flexibility, adaptability, resiliency
- ◀ Awareness of available wellness resources
- ◀ Need for more cross-training across positions/responsibilities
- ◀ Creating and updating remote policies
- ◀ Remote working assessment of needs



Equity recognition

- ◀ Discussions about physical return to work
- ◀ Acknowledgement of disparities in:
 - ◀ Transportation options
 - ◀ Health
 - ◀ Finances

Conclusion





COVID and our collective future

- ▶ Data collection ended before Delta & Omicron
- ▶ Further study is needed to understand the long-term impact
- ▶ Health sciences libraries evolved quickly and continuously throughout the pandemic
- ▶ COVID-19 will have a lasting impact on the future of health sciences libraries

Thanks!

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