

Current research

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Bernstein A. Making the case for health research. *ReSearch Money*. 2006 March 16;20(4).

After 5 years, and as required by its legislation, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) recently embarked on a significant and comprehensive quinquennial evaluation by a prestigious international review panel. In February, the panel met with more than 100 young and senior investigators, university and government leaders, industry partners, health charities, the provinces, and with CIHR management and staff. That was preceded by extensive surveys of researchers from across Canada and evaluations of CIHR's 13 institutes. The review's overall purpose is to examine if CIHR is delivering on its mandate and to assist the organization in learning from its first 5 years. The final review, to be presented this June, will represent an authoritative and objective assessment of CIHR's performance relative to its mandate and will include recommendations for improvements.

Gruttemeier H. The way to open access: French strategies to move forward. *Library and Information Service (Tushu Qingbao Gongzuo)*. 2006;50(1):27-33.

In France, the movement in favour of open access to scientific research output is getting increasingly coordinated and supported at the political level. The Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), the leading research organization in Europe and signatory of the Berlin Declaration, has an evident strategic role to play in this development. Various initiatives that have emerged in the French academic world in recent years have led, for example, in early 2005, to the joint announcement, by four major research institutions, of a common policy to promote open access to published material and other types of digital resources, and to set up institutional archives. The article highlights some key issues of this policy, gives an overview of current and past CNRS involvement in Open Access, and describes the principal functions, as well as the related challenges, of the future institutional repositories.

McGowan J, Straus SE, Tugwell P. Canada urgently needs a national network of libraries to access evidence. *Health Q*. 2006;9(1):72-4, 4. PMID: 16548438.

Canadian health professionals and their patients are deprived of important evidence to guide health and health-care decisions, ensure quality, and avoid unnecessary deaths, because, unlike other developed countries, Canada does not have a national medical library as can be found in the US

National Library of Medicine and the UK National Health Service.

Pearce-Smith N. A journal club is an effective tool for assisting librarians in the practice of evidence-based librarianship: a case study. *Health Info Libr J*. 2006 Mar;23(1):32-40. PMID: 16466497.

Objective: To establish a journal club for librarians, which aimed to develop appraisal skills and assist in the application of research to practice. **Methods:** Fourteen health librarians were invited to attend a journal club. Each month a librarian was responsible for preparing a scenario, choosing a research paper, and selecting a checklist. The paper was appraised by the club, and a critically appraised topic (CAT) prepared. Six months later, a questionnaire was sent to all librarians. **Results:** Six out of 14 librarians attended the journal club and five out of six returned the questionnaire. All five agreed that attending the journal club helped them develop appraisal skills, write a CAT, and be more critical of research. Four agreed they always identified a research paper first, then formulated a question. One librarian agreed that applying results to their own practice was difficult, one disagreed, and three were neutral. **Conclusion:** Journal clubs can be effective at developing appraisal skills and writing a CAT, as well as increasing the reading of library research. Librarians still need assistance in identifying and using questions directly from their own practice. The journal club has helped some librarians to apply evidence to practice, but others find the research is not always directly relevant.

Vincent B, Vincent M, Ferreira CG. Making PubMed searching simple: learning to retrieve medical literature through interactive problem solving. *Oncologist*. 2006;11(3):243-51. PMID: 16549808.

Searching the literature has a direct, beneficial influence on patient care. The amount of medical scientific information has increased to a great extent, while the development of networking technologies has broadened access to online databases. Successful searches depend upon understanding technical librarianship concepts and the skills for mastering searching interfaces. From a problem-oriented approach, concepts like MEDLINE coverage, PubMed resources, Boolean logic, search strategies, and Web sources for full-text articles are introduced along seven online situations: locating a specific publication, answering a complex clinical question, finding information on a general subject, finding publications by a particular author, finding publications in a particular language, finding a specific publication type, and

locating the full-text document. Oncologists should face the challenge of performing their own searches. Specific knowledge is mandatory to avoid frustrating, time-consuming work.

The objective of this work is to present concepts, strategies, and skills required for medical literature retrieval, easing the incorporation of new and welcomed practices.