

Postgraduate Course in Medical and Health Librarianship

by Distance Learning

Why a specialist CAS?

In the context of Evidence Based Medicine, librarians have developed a rich methodological toolkit to meet the needs of research, education and clinical practice. But while the methodology has become more and more refined, while more types of evidence syntheses have evolved (Andrew Booth identifies 49), and while more librarians specialise somewhere in this field, a training programme has still been wanting. With our distance-learning CAS we hope to plug this gap, and to standardise the skills and knowledge base for medical & health information specialists at the same time!

Target audience

- LIS students wishing to specialise in Medical & Health Librarianship
- Librarians new to the medical field
- Public Health researchers, PhD candidates, postdocs
- Healthcare managers
- Pharmacy information specialists and researchers

The CAS in LIS education

- 15 ECTS
- Can be taken instead of another optional module of the same ECTS value, in Chur, or at other library schools
- Can be taken as a standalone course (CPD)

Curriculum

Competency 1: Information Services

Identifying search terms (researcher interview, PICO etc., pearl growing, text analysis software)
Search strategy development; filters
Searching grey literature, trial registers
Database features, updating searches
Search performance testing, peer review, documenting a search
Critical appraisal

Competency 2: Information Management

Overview of relevant types of information resources; collection development for medical/healthcare settings
Print vs. on-line; e-resource management and evaluation
License types, bundles vs. individual subscriptions, access vs. ownership
Purchasing/licensing consortia
Information retrieval

Competency 3: Instruction & Instructional Design

Developing curricula and traditional, on-line and blended delivery formats for medical/healthcare settings
Instructional and communication strategies
Face-to-face teaching
On-line courses
Creating self-paced instructional material
Patient communication and Health Literacy

Competency 4: Leadership & Management

Staff management: building and leading a team
Managing existing fiscal resources - acquiring additional ones
Managing space
Developing technology

Competency 5: Evidence-Based Practice & Research

Using the evidence to support professional practice
Appropriate research design, use of statistics

Competency 6: Health Information Professionalism

Medicine and healthcare as a professional environment
The librarian's rôle within healthcare - collaborating with other healthcare professionals
Planning for change within the healthcare environment

The curriculum is based on the MLA's Competencies Framework (<https://www.mlanet.org/p/cm/ld/fid=1217>), with additional input from colleagues across Europe. Special thanks to David Stewart, Director of Health Library and Knowledge Services North, for coordinating input from NHS regional library service managers.

How does it work?

Learners and lecturers

- Distributed learners: participants will follow the programme by distance-learning only
- Distributed lecturers: lecturers, too, will be based at a multitude of institutions, in various European countries and North America

Session formats

- Part of the teaching will be asynchronous, i.e. pre-recorded lectures that participants can view at their convenience.
- Part of the teaching will be synchronous and interactive, using video-conferencing software.
- A significant proportion of participants' work will consist of reading and set assignments

Platform

- The course will use Moodle for its main interface, and for access to study materials
- All relevant reading will be made available on-line

Assessment

- By assignment for each module
- Certificates from Chur University of Applied Sciences (15 ECTS)

From the initial idea to the Chur CAS

• First discussions on specialist training between Betsy Anagnostelis and Gerhard Bissels

• Bern panel discussion: Tomas Allen, Betsy Anagnostelis, Gerd Antes, Gerhard Bissels, Rudolf Mumenthaler
• Chur survey of medical librarians
• JEAHIL issue 4/2016 on training and education of medical and health librarians

• Bern expert roundtable: Betsy Anagnostelis, Gerhard Bissels, Laura Díaz Hernández, Erik von Elm, María García Puente, Gillian Hallam, Janet Harrison, Kate Kelly, Carol Lefebvre, Rudolf Mumenthaler, Dietrich Nelle, Désirée Stalder, David Stewart

• Chur University of Applied Sciences, Cologne Technical University, and ZB Med (Central Medical Library), Cologne, negotiate a joint distance-learning programme. Cologne TU and ZB Med have since withdrawn from the project

• Project plan and business case prepared and submitted
• Go-ahead and first tranche of funding expected for late summer
• Curriculum development (autumn/winter)
• Recruitment of lecturers

• Application for CILIP accreditation
• First run of programme
• Evaluation and further development

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

Questions? Interested - for yourself, or for a team member? Want to contribute to the programme? Please contact:

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