Robert M. Bird Health Sciences Library
Strategic Agenda 2015-2020
Executive Summary

The Robert M. Bird Health Sciences Library (BHSL) stakeholders are the faculty, staff, students and senior leadership of the health sciences center campus. BHSL faculty and staff offer educational training programs, services, and resources to these stakeholders and are members of the Department of Health Sciences Library and Information Management in the OUHSC Graduate College. Through outreach activities the library serves the community of the state of Oklahoma (health professionals and consumers) which is facilitated through partnership with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM).

The strategic agenda details emerging opportunities that have been identified to leverage BHSL strengths and address gaps; targeted priorities focus on training and resource access to support:

- Education
- Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities
- Patient Care and Public Service

Achieving the Bird Health Sciences Library Mission

As the primary resource for health information in the state of Oklahoma the core mission of the BHSL is to provide experts for the cultivation and dissemination of information. BHSL faculty accomplish this through training to search for and utilize information resources; providing access to electronic, print and other media, and other related resources; curating print journals, books and artifacts thereby preserving the history of the health sciences, and serving as a National Library of Medicine regional repository.

Health information for Education

The trend in academic libraries is to move toward an environment that fosters collaboration. For the BHSL this will require relocation of materials, re-focusing of librarian activities and redesign of the physical space. This is supported by the request from the student body to provide more collaborative study space in the library.

Priority: Redefine the library as place to provide expertise and areas for collaborative work and study.

Action Items and Timelines

- **Preserve the History of the Health Sciences** - Alternative storage is needed to house materials that must be moved to create space for study and collaborative areas while...
preserving the history of the health sciences for future research, not only for Oklahomans, but for scholars at the regional and national levels. (12-36 months)

- **Collaborative Study Space** - In response to the request for additional collaborative study space and the need to provide flexible meeting spaces, the Library Director is working with architects and consultants to design plans for study areas and collaboration spaces. Once these plans are formulated, funding sources must be identified to move forward with this project. (12-36 months)

- **Professional Collaboration** - Library faculty are engaging with faculty in other colleges to create courses that can be cross listed with both departments. Library administration is engaging curriculum committees to lay the groundwork for librarians to be embedded within a curriculum.

  The Department of Health Sciences Library and Information Management (HSLIM) is the sole academic department that resides in the Graduate College and can serve as the vehicle to expand professional collaboration at the OUHSC. The Graduate College and the HSLIM department both work with all colleges, and therefore are uniquely positioned to host inter-professional courses or programs, thereby supporting the core mission of the BHS Library and the University. (18-36 months)

- **Center For Teaching And Learning** - The BHSL Director is redefining the roles of the librarians. With the repurposing of programs and space in the Library, the Director and the Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs are laying the groundwork to develop a Center for Teaching and Learning. (18-48 months)

### Health Information for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities

BHSL faculty support educators, researchers, and clinicians through services and resources pertinent to these endeavors. Visiting experts that were invited speakers for the Library Lecture series, support the following changes occurring in scholarly activities.

- **Return on Investment of Health Sciences Libraries** – This laid the groundwork for library faculty engaging the contemporary health sciences center to help identify how to move forward. The emphasis is on engaging faculty in areas of collaboration and development of resources that support academic and clinical education, and translational science.

- **Open Access** - Open access models have changed scholarly communications. Library faculty provide access to electronic resources and to open access platforms, and in doing so advocate for faculty to retain copyright and for economical publishing. To encourage faculty to publish via open access the Library is a member of Biomed Central (BMC), which provides discounted fees for authors to publish in one of the BMC journals.
Priority: Provide open and free access to scholarly works and expertise for research activities

Action Items and Timelines

- **Public Access to Faculty Scholarship** - The Library Director and Associate Director are creating a framework to assist authors and serve as consultants, as well as working with the Office of Research Administration to bolster campus compliance of the NIH Public Access Policy. (12-24 months)

- **Conducting Systematic Reviews** - The Library Director and Associate Director are available to discuss the importance of including librarian expertise in the entire process for performing a systematic review. Currently only the Associate Director, who is also the Head of Reference and Instructional Services, has the expertise to consult in this endeavor, but is limited in the time that can be dedicated to this activity. Training and experience for additional and current faculty is needed due to the more advanced nature of these interactions and the considerable time commitment. (12-24 months)

- **Supporting Clinical and Translational Science** - Library faculty have a place at the table for the Clinical and Translational Science Award. By developing services and providing access to a variety of information types and resources, librarians are key to successfully responding to translation scientists information needs. The Library Director and Associate Director are actively pursuing collaboration through regularly scheduled meetings with the Director of Oklahoma Shared Clinical and Translation Resources. Librarians with expertise in searching and other information related activities are uniquely and highly qualified to perform meaningful searches for these groups. A faculty librarian should sit as a member of research related administrative units such as the Institutional Review Board and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. To be able to perform these duties successfully the faculty librarian must be a regular, participating member to gain the full context afforded by interacting in group discussions. (12-24 months)

**Health Information for Patient Care and Public Service**

Dr. Lenert, a visiting expert and presenter as part of the Library Lecture series, revealed the possibilities for scholarly activity and subsequent impact on patient care that reside with the EHR systems of health institutions. He also stressed the importance of including the expertise of librarians as related to the EHR and patient care.

Librarians round out the health care team and literature supports their value in impacting patient care. Embedding a librarian within the clinical setting as part of the team allows the librarian to be proactive and collaborative, providing more immediate expertise at the point of need for the rest of the health care team and the patient. Additionally, librarian expertise is valuable when evaluating information resources that are now integrated into the EHR.
BHSL faculty are actively engaged in outreach to the community and have done so for over 35 years. These activities have been carried out through library leadership and in conjunction with the NN/LM South Central Region (SCR). In serving as a Resource Library for the NN/LM SCR, BHSL faculty apply for and receive an NN/LM Outreach Subcontract on a yearly basis. The emphasis is to identify and respond to the health information needs of health professionals and the general public in the state, with special attention given to the needs of minority and other under-served populations. The subcontract also focuses on outreach to public health and public library personnel.

**Priority:** Provide information and instruction on the use of resources for health professionals and consumers in the state of Oklahoma.

**Action Items and Timelines**

- **Patient Care Data and Public Health: Leveraging Principles Behind the EHR** - Librarians are valuable partners to evaluate and integrate health information into the electronic health record. The EHR provides fertile ground to leverage patient care data for research. Evidence in the literature supports the fact that collaboration with medical librarians improves the quality of systematic review articles and other types of research. (12-48 months)

- **Embedded Librarian** - Library administrators will engage OUHSC and OU Medical Center administration in conversations concerning the role of the librarian in the hospital or clinic setting. (12-48 months)

- **Outreach** - Outreach efforts of BHSL faculty offer opportunities to engage patients and families by providing education and training to the public about accessing and using reputable free information sources. Collaborating with clinical education faculty engages patients and other consumers within the Oklahoma City community and other areas within the state, providing a complementary team experience for the patient, as well as the librarian and clinician, facilitating access to health information. It provides the patient with multiple sources for information and an opportunity to be more informed about and an advocate for their health. (12-24 months)

**Conclusion**

The strength of the library is the professional and support staff that provide expertise and skills to collaborate on research and scholarly activities, offer services, and to develop, negotiate and manage resources for the campus community. Although currently involved in these endeavors, the primary limitation to effectively engage in and carry out these expanding activities is additional experienced, qualified library faculty.

*Prepared by Joy Summers-Ables, Director*