

Guiding the Grey:

The Implementation and Evaluation of a Journal Club amongst a Librarian and Clinical Practice Guideline Developers: A Cancer Care Case Study

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GL15, Bratislava, December 2013



Embedded Librarian

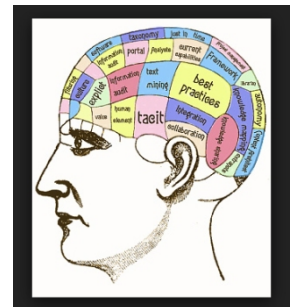
- Applied research-centered locale
- Quality improvement
 - Enhanced knowledge
 - Greater efficiency
 - Changing practice regimen
- Project consultation
- Liaising role



Guideline Utilization Resource Unit (GURU)

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/cancerguidelines.asp>

- Alberta Health Services – CancerControl
- Support 12 tumour teams across Alberta
- Knowledge management specialists & nurse facilitators
- Guideline development and implementation



Impact of Grey Literature on Clinical Practice Guideline Development

- Balance between white & grey
- Key information shared as soon as guidelines are approved
- Evidence-based with consensus recommendations (development team)
- Creates greater awareness
- Freely available and accessible on public website for practitioners and patients

Guidelines: Best Evidence, Best Practice

- What makes a high quality guideline?
 - “systematically developed statements about specific clinical problems, intended to assist practitioners and patients in making decisions about appropriate health care”
- Well developed
- Well reported
- Well-written
- Based on the best evidence available

Journal Clubs in Medical Disciplines

- First formal journal club
- Core competencies valued by health professionals
 - Ability to interpret data
 - Ability to understand implications of research findings
 - Familiarity with recent knowledge in the field
- Content experts
- Clinical experts
- Researchers

GURU Journal Club Implementation

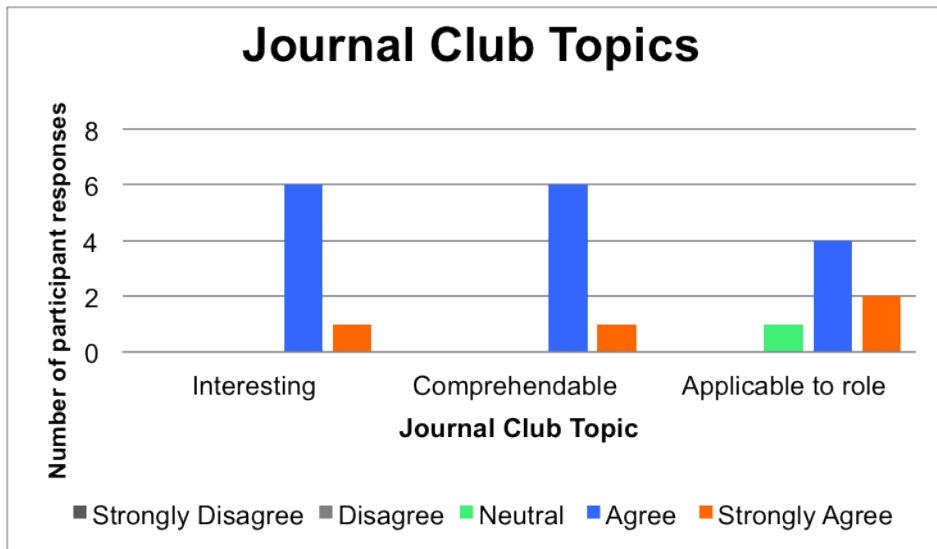
- Idea & Initiation
- Launch
- Steps to developing successful journal club
- Frequency & participation
- Facilitators & discussion leaders
- Archiving

Interviews

- Semi-structured interviews
 - N=7
 - Recorded and then transcribed for qualitative data analysis
- 25 questions focused on:
 - Journal Club processes (facilitation, selection and distribution of articles)
 - Impact of Journal Club on practice
 - Overall attitudes and perspectives

Results

- Relaxed structure
- Volunteer facilitation
- Interesting and diverse content
- Journal storage accessed sporadically
- Average rating = 7/10



- All members expressed desire to continue participating in Journal Club

Impact

- Opportunity to network with group members
- Reciprocal sharing of knowledge/interests/opinions
- Opportunity to communicate and develop a relationship with embedded librarian
 - *“...broadened my understanding and awareness of his role...”*
 - *“...gave him a better understanding of what we do [and] what would guide him to help find...research we need.”*
- Opportunity for continuous learning

Recommendations

1. Minimal guidelines for facilitators.
2. Periodic survey of Journal Club members to ensure key interests are being addressed.
3. Storage solutions.
4. Expand goals of the embedded librarian to include team building and networking.
5. Address workload and scheduling barriers to enable all members to participate.

Future Considerations

- Provincial aspects & beyond
- Virtual journal club
- Seamless translation of grey literature in research & practice

“I think it has improved, in just my background knowledge...the discussion often sparks how we apply it to our roles and cancer care in general and I found it really rewarding and truly enhanced my knowledge...it definitely influences my practice “