



# Partnering With Librarians

Janene Batten, MLS

The role of the librarian is to locate, organize, make available, and often disseminate information. Librarians in the 21st century primarily work with digital resources to ensure that clinicians have easy access to the information needed to practice, research, and teach, and for lifelong learning. The focus of this editorial is to highlight the value the librarian brings to writing and publishing. Moreover, as you work in other settings, be sure to think about collaborating with a librarian to raise the level of productivity in the areas of teaching and clinical practice.

How can the librarian be a partner? The work of librarians can be so varied that although they possess similar expertise, many have become specialists. The librarian specialist is advantageous because when the clinician or researcher has a question, librarians often collaborate and share expertise to ensure the nurse receives the best, most complete answer. For example, the research librarian might ask the data librarian for help in finding data or to suggest ways to manipulate the collected data. The collection development librarian brings valuable knowledge about the publishing process. The clinical librarian understands the work of hospital units and how necessary evidence is to make practice changes. The Web services librarian thinks deeply about what online search path makes sense for users to find what they need on their own. Librarian job titles also include biomedical sciences librarian, technology librarian, and education librarian. Some institutions have the luxury of an array of specialty librarians; others have fewer librarians who fill all roles. The number of librarians does not matter because librarians' skills, singularly or as a team, heighten the value of research and clinical practice.

It is essential to take the opportunity to talk with librarians at the conceptual stage in the research process. They may know of other people and communities researching a similar topic. Also, because they are not the content experts, librarians may think about and pose questions that stimulate more ideas.

When it comes to the writing phase of your research, the librarian's sophisticated search skills can guide in finding relevant resources and information about what research exists on the question or topic, often uncovering new material. During this process, librarians can teach tips and tricks to improve researchers' skills and increase self-sufficiency. Librarians can show how to be more efficient by saving searches or creating alerts in databases, ensuring that new information is automatically sent.

Librarians can help you become a proficient user of a citation manager, saving inordinate amounts of time when writing manuscripts. They can also help troubleshoot tricky citation problems, show you how to cite something unusual, and teach you to create bibliographies instantly.

As librarians, we know the value of information. We encourage you to disseminate your work so that others can benefit from it and build on it. Seek out a librarian when thinking about publishing opportunities. They can help navigate open access or fee-based journal publishing and explain what licensing jargon means. They keep tabs on which journals could be predatory. The librarian can advise on submitting a preprint version to make findings immediately available while the journal submission is in process. Librarians can review your manuscript abstract and author key words to make sure that you are using terminology that ensures others will find your work in the database.

Take the opportunity to meet with your librarians. You will be surprised how they can help with so many things. Do not have a librarian? The National Network of Libraries of Medicine has regional offices around the country. Librarians in these offices help health professionals obtain access to biomedical information to make informed decisions about health care ([National Network of Libraries of Medicine, 2019](#)). Librarians are here to help and can make a real difference in your scholarship. Be sure to find yours!

---

Janene Batten, Nursing Librarian, Yale University School of Nursing, West Haven, CT.

Correspondence: Janene Batten, MLS, Nursing Librarian, Yale University School of Nursing, PO Box 27399, West Haven, CT 06516-0972; e-mail: [janene.batten@yale.edu](mailto:janene.batten@yale.edu)  
*J Pediatr Health Care.* (2020) 34, 1

0891-5245/\$36.00

Copyright © 2019 by the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. Published by Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

## REFERENCE

National Network of Libraries of Medicine (2019). About NNLM. Retrieved from <https://nnlm.gov/about>

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2019.09.011>