

**RESEMBLANCE OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE WITH
MEDICAL SCIENCE**

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Abstract

Library and Information Science (LIS) has impact of many disciplines including Information Communication Technology, Law, Chemistry, Physics etc. Both professions are service oriented. Many of the concepts in LIS have been evolved from Medical Science. Bibliotherapy, Evidence based practices, Concept of referral service; Information Obesity etc are lead from Medical Science.

Keywords: Bbliotherapy, Communication Skills, Evidence Based Librarianship, Information Obesity

Introduction

Library and Information Science (LIS) is an interdisciplinary branch of knowledge. It is employing new methods and approach. Therefore, it is taking shape in the form of new paradigmatic science. This interdisciplinary subject has derived and drawn the benefits from most of the traditional subjects, which include Chemistry, Computer Science, Education, Linguistics, Logic, Mathematics, Physics, and Psychology and so on. There is strong relationship between LIS and Medicine for example Maintenance-Cleaning- leads good hygienic environment, Ergonomics leads to Dimensions of the furniture, comfort, etc. Many concepts in LIS are adapted from Medical Science. For example: Bibliotherapy, Evidence based practices, Concept of referral service and Internship, etc

Medicine is the science and practice of the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. The library science comprises diagnosis of user needs and providing appropriate information to users.

This paper highlights the few close components between LIS and Medical Science.

1. Key characteristics required for both the profession are same. They are,

- a. Communication skills:** Communication in medicine is considered as a fundamental clinical skill to establish a relationship with the patient, paving a way to successful diagnosis and treatment. Better communication between doctor and patient builds confidence, improves compliance, and reduces mistakes and mishaps, thereby

reducing malpractice suits. Communication skills training is internationally accepted as an essential component of medical education.

Since Librarianship is service-oriented discipline, it is woven round effective communication skills. There is close relationship between service delivery by library staff and user satisfaction with communication skills. Therefore, now many universities have incorporated communication skills as a core or elective subject in their curriculum

b. Presence/Listening: This trait is key when effectively speaking to users, colleagues and patients. Physicians have to interact different patients. He has to listen their health problems carefully for diagnosis of diseases.

The library professionals must have good listening skills as he/she has to interact with different types of users all the time. By carefully listening to users' he/she can identify the exact requirement and then provide the service accordingly.

c. Critical thinking: This is integral as the physician, regardless of specialty, assesses volumes of data to quickly form a working conclusion, using deductive reasoning and inferences based on knowledge, symptoms and experience.

No two patients are the same. Each patient has to be evaluated individually. If not, potentially fatal errors can occur.

There is vast amount of information available in print and electronic form. To disseminate desired information on right time, in right format and right amount it is necessary to critically evaluate the vast amount of available information and user needs of different types of user.

d. Compassion: Compassion is more than kindness and civility; it is authentic sympathy for self, patients, colleagues and co-workers irrespective of race, class, creed or personal behavior. Patients seek a physician's counsel for warmth and understanding, not merely medical expertise.

Librarians have to be compassionate with their users' and co-workers. It plays a role in facilitating effective communication between staff and users.

e. Resilience: Life of medical science professional is stressful, busy. They have to face situations like death of patient, etc. They have to recover quickly from difficult situations

The meaning of resilience with reference to librarianship can be considered as adaptability, flexibility. It may allow library science professionals to adopt new techniques, services and technologies.

2. Internship:

Internships are structured, supervised, and short-term programs in which undergraduate or postgraduate students perform tasks and duties within an organization in order to gain knowledge and experience. Many of the LIS and Medical Science programs offer Internship to their students. The purpose is to gain practice and experience to treat and manage patients or to satisfy the information needs of the user.

3. Ergonomics:

It is an Interdisciplinary subject. It involves Medical science, engineering, Psychology, etc. It is concerned with posture of employee, design of furniture, conditions and environment at work place, etc. In present days, people are suffering from Computer Related Injuries Syndrome. Precautions and exercises are suggested by medical practitioners to avoid such syndromes. The visible effect of applying ergonomics is it leads to good health and hygiene of the employee and improves the efficiency and productivity. In libraries Ergonomics can be apply for chairs, tables, shelving, Footrests, use of computers, etc.

4. Referral Service:

Referral service is an active process. In medicine referral service means, general practitioner (GP) **referred a patient to the specialist or other practitioner for further treatment.**

In Library and Information Science referral, service means directing the users to the sources outside the library when the information required by the user is not available in the library. Outside source may be a person and/or an organization or an agency. Thus, the person is linked with the source outside the library, which meets the need or solves the problem of the user. Library has to create a resource file to provide this service. Referral service does not provide users with the document or information needed by them, but directs them to sources of information where required document or information would be available. This type of service provides detailed information, including contact information, mailing address where a person can go and receive the required information or help.

5. Evidence based Medicine(EBM) and Librarianship:

The term Evidence-Based Medicine was first used in 1991 and more formally in 1992. Evidence based medicine is the conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence for treating the individual patients. It is an approach to medical practice intended to optimize decision-making about patient's health and care.

Following are the common sources include in evidence-based practice in medicine:

- Personal experience – for example, a bad drug reaction
- Reasoning and intuition
- Colleagues
- Published evidence.

Evidence Based Librarianship (EBL)

This concept has spread to various branches of medicine and healthcare, to the para-medical professions, and to other professions such as social work, education, and to librarianship. Evidence-Based Librarianship (EBL) has emerged and established a definitive presence in library and information work in many countries. It provides a scientifically developed structure for planning and decision making activities in libraries.

The following points are clear about the concept of EBL:

- (a) EBL provides a framework for making informed decisions in any area of library/information work
- (b) The decisions are made on the basis of evidence, i.e. records of research and practice, mostly found in the professional literature, but also possibly in unpublished material or grey literature.
- (c) The decisions made thus are based on the actual experiences of practitioners in the field.
- (d) High quality research in the field contributes to the decision making process.

Thus in medicine it is used for taking decisions about patients health and care and in LIS it is used for decision making for user services. The evidences may be documentary and non documentary.

The EBL and EBM Process

There is similarity in the process of EBL and EBM as shown in Table 1

Table 1: EBL and EBM Process

Sr. No	Evidence based Librarianship(EBL)	Evidence based Medicine (EBM)
1	Specifying the problem	Problem definition
2	Finding the evidence to answer the problem	Search for wanted sources of information
3	Appraising the evidence	Critical evaluation of the information
4	Applying the results	Application of information of the patient
5	Evaluating the outcome	Efficacy evaluation of this application on a patient

Source: Brice, Booth and Bexon and Group for Evidence Based Medicine Resource from McMaster University

It can be observed that the processes shown in the above table is more or less same. Only in evidence based medicine the focus is on patients and in EBL is on users.

6. Information obesity

Today's world is influenced by information Communication Technologies. The impact of ICT is multiple sources of information are available. It is becoming difficult day by day to manage this information. We are information overloaded. This is described as Information Obesity by Whitworth, A. in his book *Information Obesity*.(Whitworth, A.(2009). He described that Information Obesity is a failure to turn information into knowledge, and thus use it to sustain our minds, bodies, lives and communities. Information obesity is outcome of "information overload". The other responsible factors are:

- dilution in the quality of information
- lack of skills, training etc. in the consumer of information associated with mental fitness
- external pressures, from "information industries", peers, or organisations within which we work, to consume information before we have properly judged its worth.

Many writers have discussed the problems that are caused by information obesity. These include:

- Lack of creativity and flexibility
- The "dumbing down" of TV and other media
- Counter knowledge, such as conspiracy theories, creationism, health panics, and so on

- An increasing lack of privacy and control over information, instead of individuals having control over the information which is important in their homes, communities, environments, workplaces and cultures.
- Decrease in attention span
- Create confusion and inefficiency due to lack of concentration.

How to avoid Information Obesity?

Deciding exact amount of information from different sources such as books, Journals, Television, internet, Social Media, etc

Control on information browsing on Internet. To find use on Internet one can see on rescuetime.com

- Deciding time to spent on information browsing and gathering from all sources
- Browsing and gathering only needful and useful information
- Checking utility, quality, authenticity, currency of information
- If possible no use of social media, What's app one day.(Smith, Lauren,

Library and Information Science professionals can help by following ways to overcome this problem,

- Information Literacy Programs
- Information Seeking Behavior Studies
- Training programs for Searching information on Internet

In medical science, Obesity is a medical condition where excess body fat has accumulated which may have negative effects on health. Information obesity is a condition in which we are overloaded with information.

7. Bibliotherapy:

In Medicine therapy is synonymous with treatment. It means the application of medicines, surgery, psychotherapy, etc, to a patient or to a disease or symptom. The use of reading materials for healing purposes is known as bibliotherapy Its history is rooted in the soil of ancient Greece around 300 BC ago, where doors of library at Thebes engraved the phrase "Place of healing for the Soul." Bibliotherapy like other therapies, i.e. art therapy, aromatherapy, behavior therapy, color therapy, dance therapy, horticulture therapy, music therapy, play therapy etc., is a potential clinical tool that is made up of literature

The term 'bibliotherapy' is derived from a couple of two Greek words, biblion, which means book, and therapeia, which means healing or treatment. Thus the meaning of bibliotherapy in simplest way is "healing by books." The terms, such as book therapy, reading therapy, and

literotherapy are also synonymously used in place of bibliotherapy. Some recently developed terms are also used in place of bibliotherapy in the modern perspectives, viz. information therapy, webotherapy, media therapy, internet therapy, etc. Bibliotherapy is nothing but an art and science of using books in the treatment of diseases, especially used in psychological diseases, such as anxiety, depression, frustration, drug abuse, stress, negative behavior, sexual dysfunctions, hoarding disorder, eating problems, social isolation, so on and so forth. Bibliotherapy was applied comprehensively in European countries, particularly in England, Scotland, France, and Germany, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. As an important aspect of librarianship, bibliotherapy was fully accepted and approved in the United States in the beginning of twentieth century.

Categories of Bibliotherapy

Janaviciene (2010) divided the bibliotherapy into following three categories. This categorization is based on various objectives of the bibliotherapy process

Clinical bibliotherapy-

The simple goal of this therapy is to cure the disease by prescribing selected books which create a positive effect on mind of the patient. The treatment of illness conducted by a doctor is directly related to clinical bibliotherapy. Only reading materials are recommended and provided by the physicians, and librarians. Bibliotherapy is only implemented clinically in hospitals, and medical institutions. Librarians can only work as a member of the team.

Rehabilitation bibliotherapy-

In collaboration with doctors, counselors, rehabilitation centres, day-care, and social workers, rehabilitation bibliotherapy may be implemented and provided by library professionals. Its primary goal is to provide hope through books that present how other people manage same circumstances. This therapy is more suitable to help patients adapt to the changing environment. It involves recovery clinical bibliotherapy. Patients can widen their perspectives and develop positive views.

Educational bibliotherapy or Personality development-

This therapy is used by many social and academic institutions. It includes personality development and adaptation to the changing environment; hence it is closely related to rehabilitation bibliotherapy. Patients can create and develop a creativity and balanced personality by using this therapy. In this type of therapy, doctors, counselors, social workers, teachers and library professionals are involved, who provide social services. Figure 1 shows benefits, and application of Bibliotherapy on children

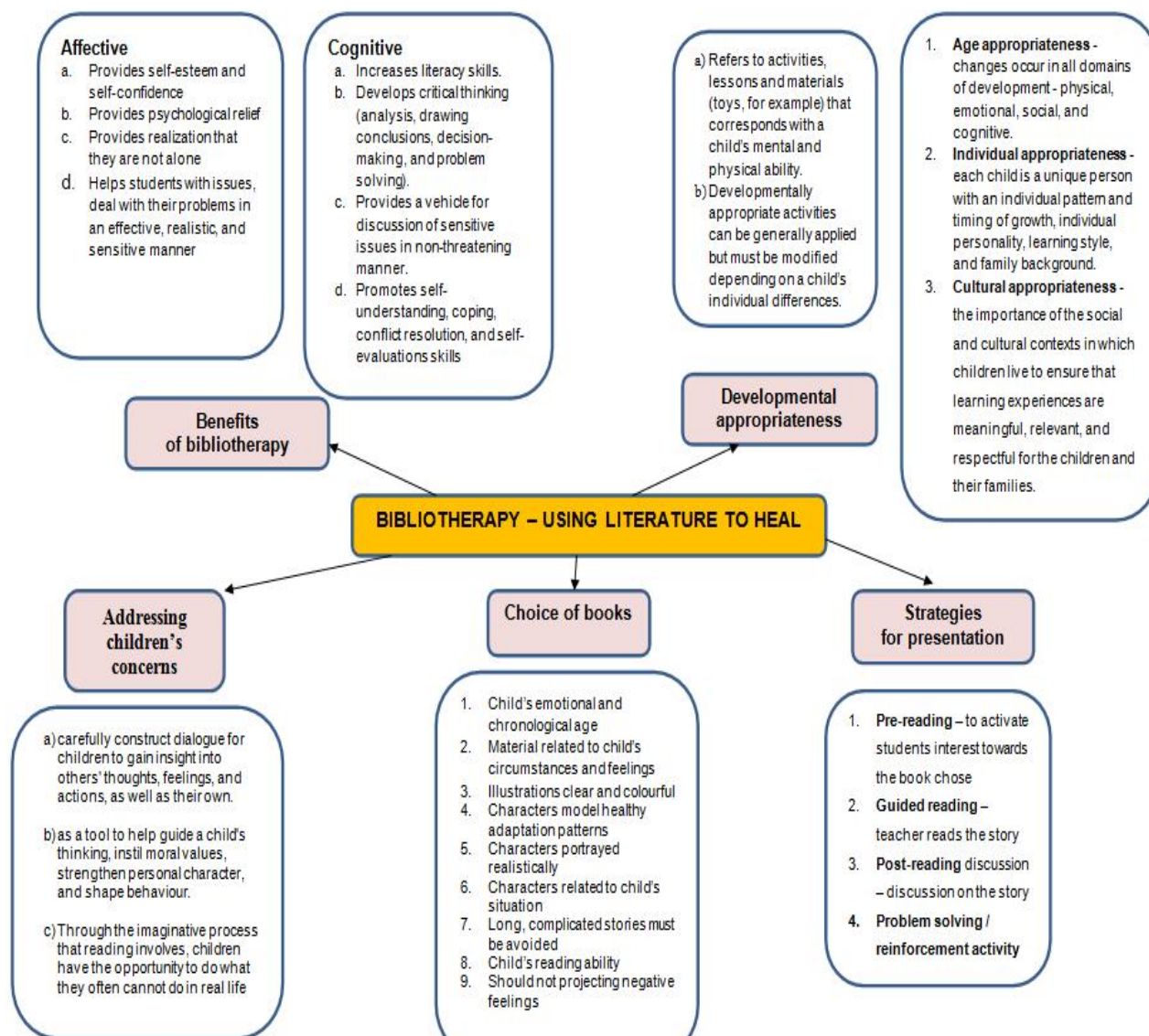


Fig1: Bibliotherapy

Source:<http://hlwiki2.slais.ubc.ca/index.php/File:Bibliotherapy.jpg>

There is close relationship between LIS and Medical Science. The main aim of both the professions is to satisfy need of the patients or users. Communication Skills are primary skills required for both the disciplines. of the concepts like Referral Service, Ergonomics, Evidence Based Librarianship, Bibliotherapy have been adopted in recent years.

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