

Partners in (Re)Search: Roles for Health Librarians in Finding and Connecting Indigenous Health Information

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Abstract: Introduction: Despite the introduction of new terms to MeSH in 2021 that focus on the Indigenous Canadian experience, inclusion in controlled vocabulary does not completely fix difficulties of searching medical literature for Indigenous content. As a result, we ask: what strategies do health librarians use to discover medical literature on Indigenous communities? What implications can this have for the tools or recommendations librarians can make for individuals conducting this research? **Methods:** We conducted both a literature review and content analysis. The literature review was performed within three Library and Information Science databases using keywords and controlled terms on information retrieval and searching and Indigenous topics. The content analysis covered the materials presented by Canadian libraries attached to medical schools that were discovered through keywords searching and hand searching. **Results:** Our literature search and subsequent application of exclusion criteria resulted in 8 articles to be qualitatively analyzed. Our content analysis search identified 14 libraries, of which 9 had guides on Indigenous health concerns. **Discussion:** Themes discovered across analysis included the value of search filters, education in thorough searching, and community inclusion in all phases of health research as key ways of increasing effectiveness in Indigenous contexts. **Conclusion:** Many of the steps useful to creating a more thorough review of Indigenous health topics are strategies that are often created or enacted by librarians. We outline the roles through which these activities fall under the purview of a health librarian and strongly advocate that librarians engage in these roles in order to adequately respond to TRC calls to action.