#### Health Research Associate Program:

Dana Library Outreach for Health Information Access in Vermont and the Champlain Valley

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UVM Libraries Conference Day August 13, 2013

#### Background

How do health care providers find answers to questions important to patient care without a library or librarian?

Facts: Majority of Vermont primary care providers in 1 or 2 clinician practice; no affiliation or access with academic medical center resources (UVM or Dartmouth)

## How do state health agencies keep up with trends and issues in public health and wellness?

Fact: Vermont Dept. of Health and other agencies need evidence from research but have few journal subscriptions and little training in literature searching.





# How can small hospitals that can't afford a librarian provide information services for their employees?

Fact: Only 6 out of 16 Vermont hospitals have a library with paid staff; 8 have 25 beds or less







### Dana Libraries' Health Research Associate (HRA) Program helps fill the gap.

Can't substitute for a Library though



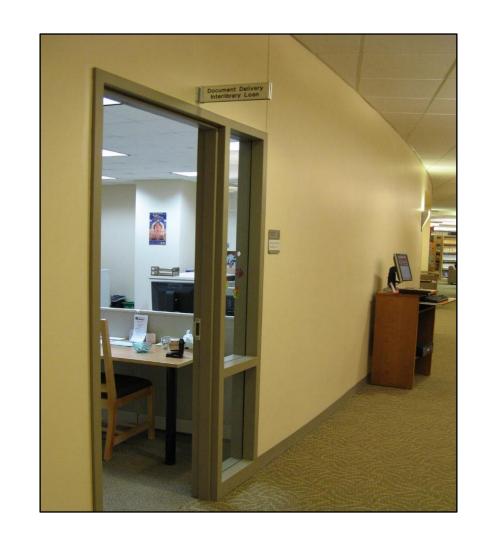
#### What is HRA?

- Outreach program to provide needed information to the health care communities of Vermont
- Conducted on a cost-recovery basis or UVM income expense account
- Dana Library program since 1991
- Similar to UVM Extension provides services to the community

#### What Services Do We Offer?

#### Services include:

- journal article delivery
- interlibrary loan
- reference desk services
- literature searches
- information literacy classes
- book borrowing



Journal Article Delivery – most requested service 983 articles requested in FY 2013

- 80% (781/983) from Dana/UVM Libraries
- 20% (192/983) were interlibrary loans

#### Detailed Literature Searches

- Conducted by medical librarians
- 31 requested in 2013
- Majority from hospital clinicians
- Related directly to patient care or health issues

#### Examples of topics:

- Management of weight after treatment for hypertension
- Association of exposure to heavy metals with learning disabilities
- How to taper cardioactive IV medications in the ICU

Literature searches take Dana librarians 1.5 (avg.) hours to complete.



#### **Education Sessions**

- Presented by the HRA Education Representative
- 15 sessions in 2013 all corners of VT

#### Topic: HOW TO

Identify health information from PubMed and Internet sources



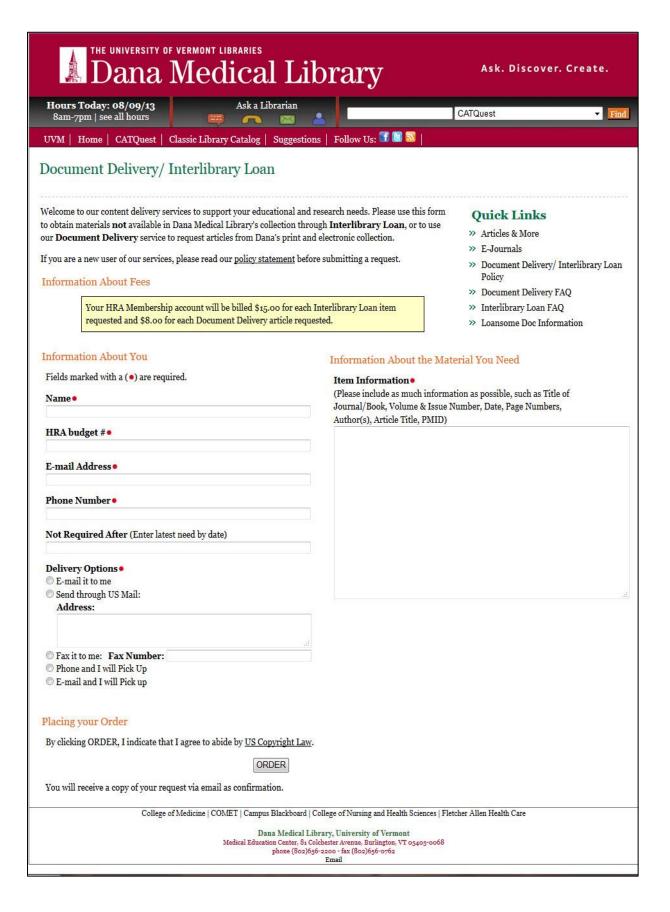
Request journal articles and books from Dana

#### How do HRA's Ask?s

By phone, email and the online form.

The online form to request articles for HRA's greatly speeds up service.

- Requesters give their name and the HRA organization they are associated with
- Dana supplies the article
- The activity is recorded
- Organization receives bill for all services charged to them that month



#### Who are HRA Members?

There are 30 members in the program. The health care related organizations are the core of the membership.

#### **Vermont Area Health Education Centers**

- CVAHEC St. Albans
- NEVAHEC St. Johnsbury
- SVAHEC Brattleboro
  - Founded by federal grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration
  - Independent non-profit agencies (originally administered through the UVM AHEC)
  - Focus on health workforce development
  - Fund continuing education for primary health care providers
  - Help pay back student loans for providers who stay in VT

#### Hospitals

#### The 4 hospitals include:

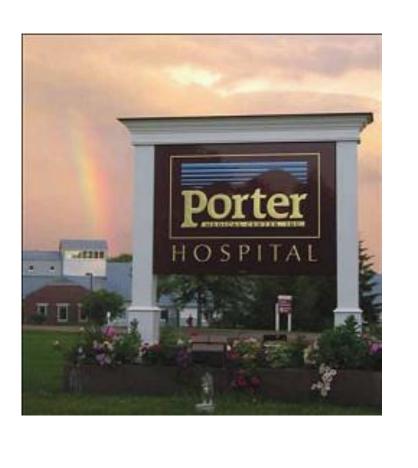
- Northwestern Medical Center, St. Albans
- Porter Hospital, Middlebury
- Gifford Hospital, Randolph
- Champlain Valley Physician's Hospital, Plattsburgh (CVPH)



Northwestern Medical Center, St. Albans



CVPH, Plattsburgh, NY



Gifford Medical Center, Randolph

#### Vermont State Agencies or Organizations

- Vermont Department of Health (VDH)
- Vermont Department of Mental Health
- Vermont Board of Nursing
- Vermont Medical Society Education & Research Foundation

VDH requested the most services last year - 313 transactions.

Northwestern Medical Center - 129

#### VDH and Dana Library



- Partnering with a National funded initiative with Departments of Health throughout the U.S.
- Grant provides subscriptions to electronic journals databases and textbooks relevant to public health
- The VDH website has a link to Dana's HRA requests for services webpage

#### Other Customers

- Albany College of Pharmacy, Colchester
- Private practice clinicians dentists, doctors
- Corporations PKC and Food Science Corp.
- Law firms

Firms and businesses pay a higher membership fee.



#### Website and Research Guide for HRA and Unaffiliated Users





http://library.uvm.edu/dana/services/unaffiliated.php

http://danaguides.uvm.edu/freeresources

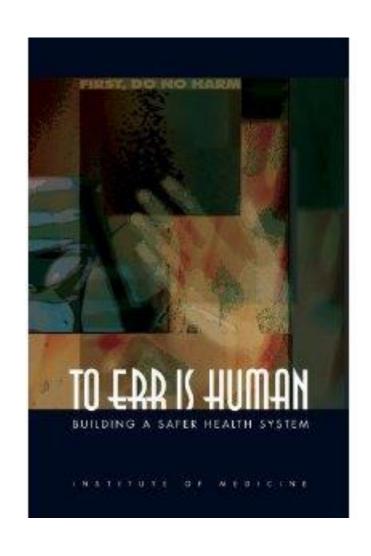
#### Why Do All This?

It's part of our mission as a public land grant institution and it's important because

Access to the best patient-oriented research evidence and its application to patient care with patient values –

changes decisions, avoids medical errors, reduces costs, and sometimes, saves lives.

Reference: To err is human: building a safer health system / Linda T. Kohn, Janet M. Corrigan, and Molla S. Donaldson, editors; Committee on Quality Health Care in America, Institute of Medicine. QZ 42 T627 2000



#### With Special Thanks to:

Administration Office – Nelson, Susan Circulation Department – Brenda, Colin, Joanne, John Document Delivery/Interlibrary Loan – Elinor, Joanne, Marie Literature Search Services – Alice, Fran, Gary, Laura, Nancy Website and Systems – Donna, Lynda

Collections – Jeanene, Sandy



Questions?