


ARCIVAL: Annual Report on Changes in Veterinary Academic Libraries 2015 Pilot Report

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Abstract

Background:

Academic veterinary libraries are often part of large university library systems. Numerous colleague reports from have surfaced about the closing or downsizing of academic veterinary libraries, the demise of the print veterinary collections, the integration of veterinary collections into general university library collections, and the addition of other discipline responsibilities to veterinary librarians. Are these isolated occurrences or part of a trend? What are the effects of these changes?

Objective:

This research, in progress at the time of this abstract, surveys the current state of academic veterinary libraries and documents recent changes across the international academic veterinary library community. Specifically, it will gather evidence from veterinary colleague libraries that are listed in the international veterinary libraries directory, maintained by the Veterinary Medical Libraries Section of the Medical Library Association, to document any closing and merging of academic veterinary libraries, to compile all evidence and descriptive information concerning changes in space, collections, reporting relationships and librarian assignments.

Methods:

Principal investigators developed an online survey, administered using Qualtrics, to gather data from current and recently retired veterinary librarians. Additionally, Qualtrics provides standard reporting and analysis tools. The survey is scheduled for distribution in January 2015. Responses will be compiled and analyzed during the spring. Results will be shared with participants and other colleagues. The survey will be repeated triennially using the 2015 survey as a benchmark. Results from the separate surveys and trends analyses across multiple survey iterations will be provided as longitudinal data increases.

Results:

Compiled responses, analysis of the results, and plans for ongoing data collection will be presented.

Conclusions:

The speculation is that the results will illuminate and clarify trends in the changes to the physical presence of veterinary libraries, the reduction and reassignment of veterinary library spaces, and modifications to the subject discipline assignments of veterinary librarians.



Compiling the Evidence to Chronicle the State of the International Veterinary Library Landscape

Setting



Academic veterinary libraries are often part of large university library systems, impacted by changes in higher education and changes in accreditation expectations ...

Change is constant

Trigger

Reports from colleagues ...

“Bring out your dead! Bring out your dead!”

--Paraphrase from Monty Python

OR

“The reports of my demise have been greatly exaggerated.”

--Paraphrase of Mark Twain

Objectives

Compile evidence and descriptive information from international veterinary colleague libraries serving accredited veterinary schools

- Space
- Collections
- Reporting relationships
- Funding sources
- Librarian assignments

Create longitudinal datasets to facilitate benchmarking and trends analysis

Methods: Survey

- Distributed broadly to institutions and individuals in spring 2015
- Ties respondents to accrediting agencies
- Focus is 5 year window
- 20 questions

VMLS Questions for AVMA COE Response

Please select the answer that most closely describes your current situation. There is a comment box available after each question to allow you to clarify your answer.

1. Veterinary Library (physical space) location

Veterinary library located within the College of Veterinary Medicine

Veterinary collections (or collections and personnel) split between University library and clinical library

Separate library (may be branch library) not located in the College of Veterinary Medicine that serves two or more curricula, including veterinary medicine

Other (specify in comments area)

Comments

2. Personnel Reporting lines

University Library

College of Veterinary Medicine

Dual reporting: both University Library and College of Veterinary Medicine

Other (specify in comments area)

Comments

3. Personnel and Collections Funding sources

University Library

College of Veterinary Medicine

Dual funding sources: both University Library and College of Veterinary Medicine (provide details in comments area)

Other (specify in comments area)

Comments

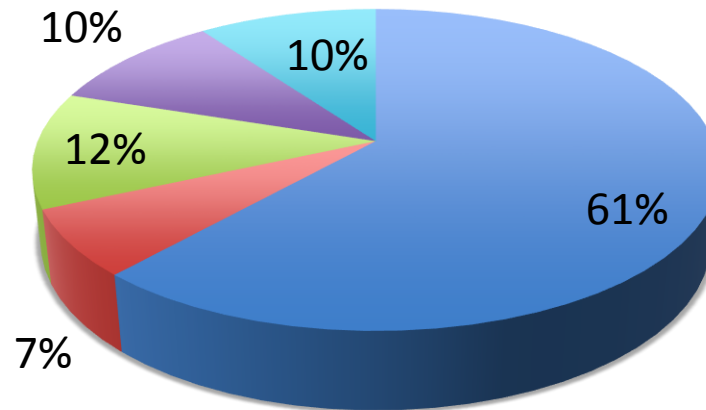
Results: Survey Respondents



Results: Responses by Accreditation

Respondents

■ AVMA ■ AVBC ■ EAEVE ■ RCVS ■ Other



Conclusions

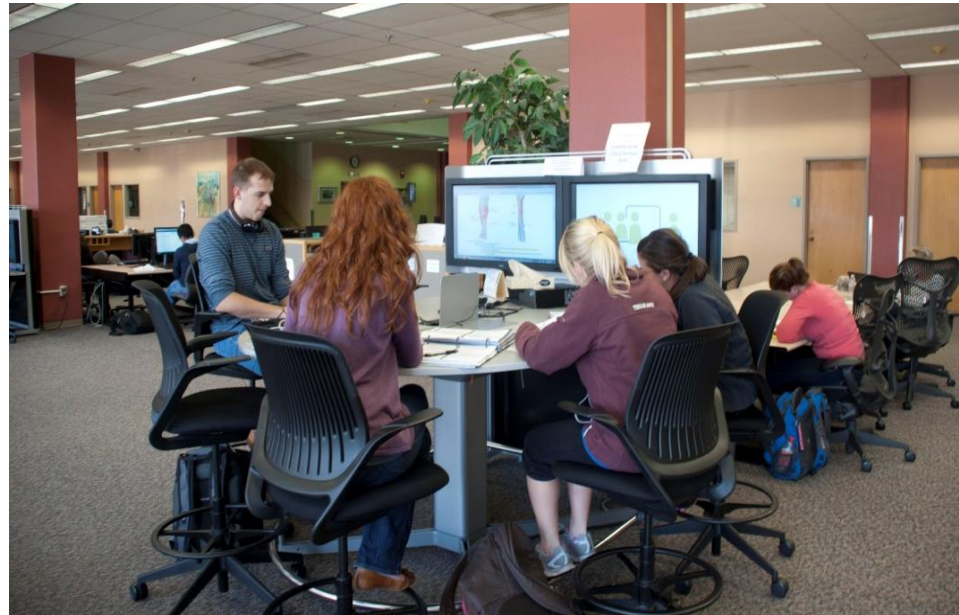


Creating the Composite Veterinary Library

- Adapted from the Association of Academic Health Science Libraries annual survey
- Tool for benchmarking and trends analysis
- Constructed from the majority response for selected data reported

The Composite Veterinary Library

- Located within the College
- Collections located in veterinary library
- Reports to and funded by university library
- Funding unchanged (47%) or reduced (41%)
- Space unchanged (41%) or internally reassigned (37%)



The Composite Veterinary Library



- Staffing
 - No significant changes reported by 56-73%
 - Decreases reported in librarians, clerical and student workers by 25-29%
 - Decreases reported in paraprofessionals by 42%
- Collections
 - Prefer electronic over print
 - Retain earlier print editions
 - Include audiovisuals

The Composite Veterinary Library

- Onsite services and activities
 - LibGuides (92%)
 - Reserve book collection (92%)
 - Collection development (92%)
 - General research consultations (90%)
 - Computers (90%)
 - Individual study spaces (84%)
 - Expert searching (82%)
 - Bibliographic instruction (80%)
 - Group study spaces (80%)
 - Acquisitions (62%)



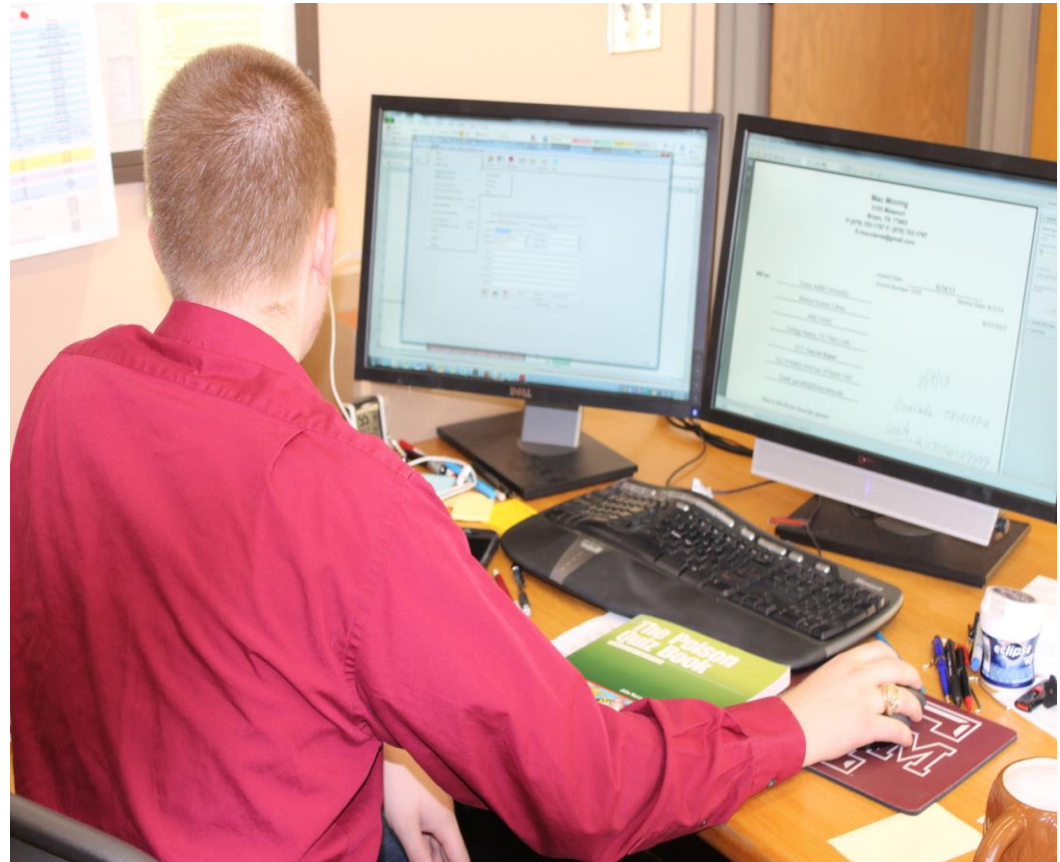
The Composite Veterinary Librarian



- Responsibilities increased
- Activities
 - Collection development (96%)
 - Reference (94%)
 - Bibliographic instruction (92%)
 - General research consultations (88%)
 - Expert searching (86%)
 - Acquisitions (61%)
 - Teach part of course within curriculum (49%)
 - Systematic review consultations (49%)

The Composite Veterinary Librarian

- Position changes
 - No changes (57%)
 - Reassigned in last 5 years (35%)
 - Consolidated in last 5 years (10%)
- Changing workforce
 - 10% currently in interim position
 - 37% assumed position in last 5 years
 - 22% will retire in next 5 years



Next Steps



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- Solicit additional respondents from all accredited libraries
- Create longitudinal datasets by accrediting agency as well as comprehensive
- Share results with participants and other colleagues
- Publish a report of results
- Create a web portal for use of survey participants
- Repeat the survey annually

Questions? Thank You!

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