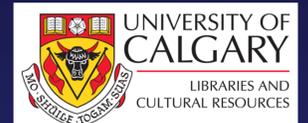


# Roles of Librarians in Advancing Evidence-Based Veterinary Medicine



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## Overview

Veterinary medical librarians and the EBVMA Librarians Committee are involved in supporting and advancing evidence-based veterinary medicine in clinical care, education, and research. In addition to the important traditional roles of selecting resources and providing access to information, librarians: **educate, find the evidence, critically appraise the evidence, and participate in the research process.**

Veterinary librarians are partners in improving practice outcomes by increasing the effectiveness of research teams and facilitating the uptake of research evidence into clinical practice.

## Educate

In the classroom or in the clinic, librarians teach students, practitioners, and faculty:

- ❖ The principles of EBVM
- ❖ How to formulate clinical questions using the **PICO** framework:
  - P**atient / Population / Problem
  - I**ntervention
  - C**omparison Intervention / Control
  - O**utcome
- ❖ How to select the best information resources and create effective search strategies
- ❖ How to evaluate the quality of information resources and of retrieved information
- ❖ How to manage references with software programs such as EndNote and RefWorks

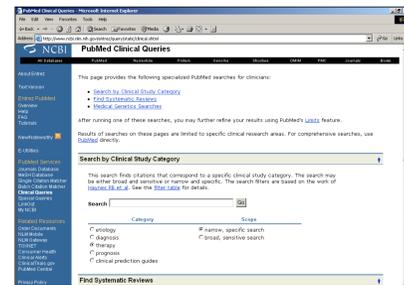
On curriculum committees, librarians partner with faculty to integrate EBVM into courses and programs.



## Find the Evidence

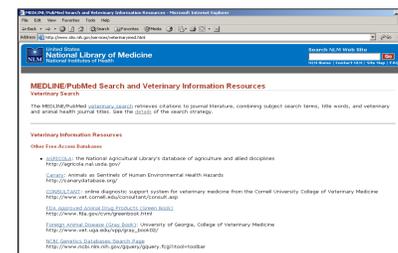
As expert searchers, librarians:

- ❖ Translate clinical and research questions into effective search strategies
- ❖ Attend rounds as members of the clinical team, performing rapid, focused searches to support clinical decision making
- ❖ Conduct comprehensive literature searches to support research and the creation of systematic reviews
- ❖ Use and develop search filters to retrieve the best evidence from databases such as PubMed and CAB Abstracts.



**PubMed Clinical Queries:** Further research is needed to adapt these filters for veterinary medicine.

**MEDLINE/PubMed Veterinary Search:** Developed by librarians at the National Library of Medicine.



**CAB Abstracts:** Comprehensive international coverage of veterinary medicine literature. Includes journals not indexed in MEDLINE/PubMed.

## Critically Appraise the Evidence

To facilitate assessment of the validity and importance of the evidence, librarians:

- ❖ Filter search results to retrieve studies from top levels of the evidence pyramid
- ❖ Critically appraise articles using standard checklists
- ❖ Participate in journal clubs
- ❖ Participate in the creation of critically appraised topics (CATs)



<http://healthlinks.washington.edu/ebp/ebptools.html>

## Participate in the Research Process

In this emerging role, librarians, as part of the research team:

- ❖ Conduct scoping searches that define and refine the research question
- ❖ Code abstracts and extract data from journal articles in the production of systematic reviews
- ❖ Help coordinate the work of the research team
- ❖ Write search methods sections and co-author grant proposals, case reports, and systematic reviews

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