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Increasing our Library's Value with DALRs

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Increasing our Library's Value with DALRs

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Why Did the Service Evolve?

—"Parallel" Needs Identified

Lunch and Learn sessions Fall 2010 ->

Identified departmental support personnel as needing library skills to work with faculty

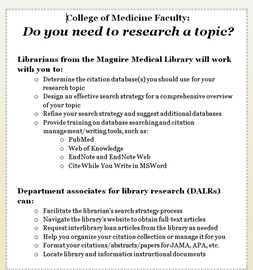
College-wide emphasis on research ->

Increased faculty need for library research

Departmental support person (w/MLS) was asked to do literature searches ->

Contacted us to "not step on librarian toes"

Who Provides Which Service?



College of Medicine Faculty:

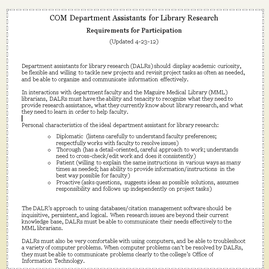
Do you need to research a topic?

Librarians from the Maguire Medical Library will work with you to:

- Determine the citation database(s) you should use for your research topic
- Design an effective search strategy for a comprehensive overview of your topic
- Refine your search strategy and suggest additional databases
- Provide training on database searching and citation management/writing tools, such as:
  - PubMed
  - Web of Knowledge
  - EndNote and EndNote Web
  - Cite While You Write in MSWord

Department associates for library research (DALRs) can:

- Facilitate the librarian's search strategy process
- Navigate the library's website to obtain full-text articles
- Request interlibrary loan articles from the library as needed
- Help you organize your citation collection or manage it for you
- Format your citations/abstracts/papers for JAMA, APA, etc.
- Locate library and informatics instructional documents



COM Department Assistants for Library Research

Requirements for Participation

(Updated 4-23-12)

Department assistants for library research (DALRs) should: display academic curiosity, be flexible and willing to tackle new projects and revisit project tasks as often as needed, and be able to organize and communicate information effectively.

In interactions with department faculty and the Maguire Medical Library (MML) librarians, DALRs must have the ability and tenacity to recognize what they need to provide research assistance, what they currently know about library research, and what they need to learn in order to help faculty.

Personal characteristics of the ideal department assistant for library research:

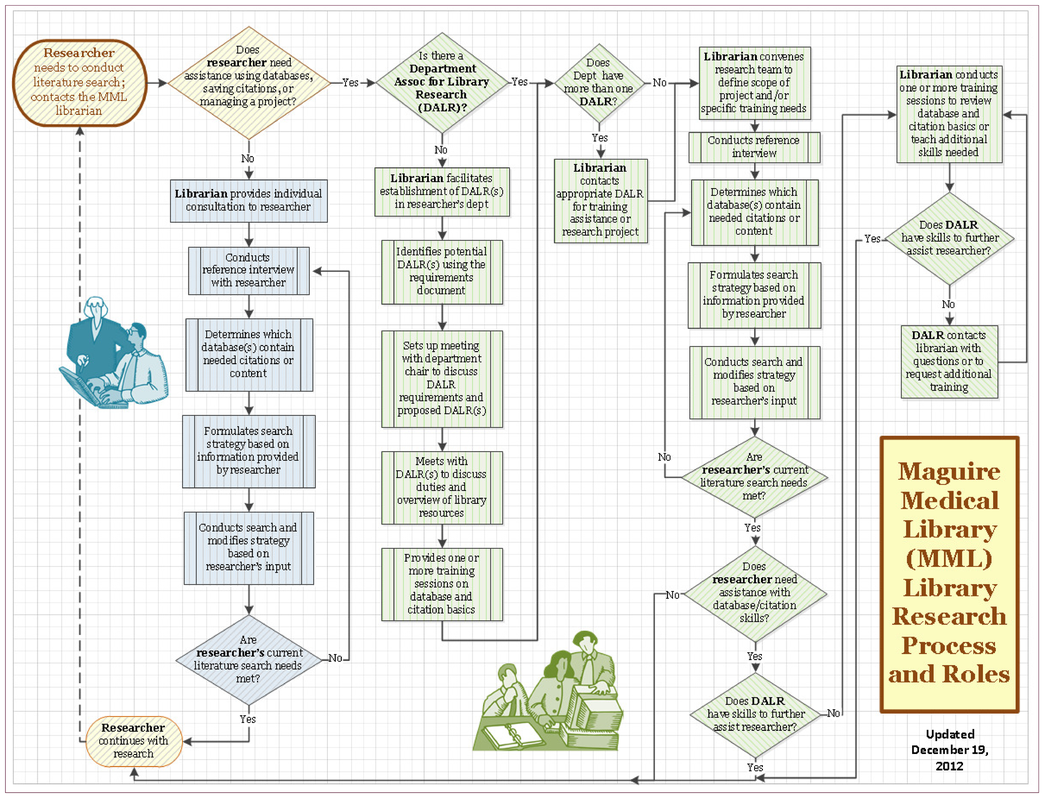
- Diplomatic (listens carefully to understand faculty preferences; respectfully works with faculty to resolve issues)
- Thorough (has a detail-oriented, careful approach to work; understands need to cross-check/edit work and does it consistently)
- Patient (willing to explain the same instructions in various ways as many times as needed; has ability to provide information/instructions in the best way possible for faculty)
- Proactive (asks questions, suggests ideas as possible solutions, assumes responsibility and follows up independently on project tasks)

The DALR's approach to using databases/citation management software should be inquisitive, persistent, and logical. When research issues are beyond their current knowledge base, DALRs must be able to communicate their needs effectively to the MML librarians.

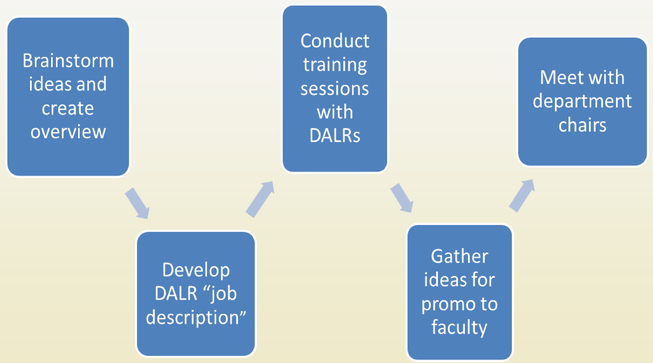
DALRs must also be very comfortable with using computers, and be able to troubleshoot a variety of computer problems. When computer problems can't be resolved by DALRs, they must be able to communicate problems clearly to the college's Office of Information Technology.

New Research Service Offers Options

Maguire Medical Library (MML) Capitalizes on Department Associates for Library Research (DALRs)



How Has the Service Evolved?



What is the Payoff for the Service?

—Two Options for Research Assistance

Librarian provides consultation for faculty member or other researcher

Librarian convenes research team with faculty member or other researcher and department associate for library research (DALR)