

ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCES ENVIRONMENT

- The library is at the intersection of a complex network of academic, research, and clinical needs of the institution.
- The role of the director is to ensure that services and resources of the library appropriately support the mission, academic environment, and the success of the institution.

The academic health sciences library's primary role is to support, serve, and help define the mission of its parent institution in its use and deployment of knowledge and information-based resources and services in a changing health care environment. This role remains paramount despite substantial environmental changes including the emergence of new institutions, changes in health system organization and structure, and reporting changes in academic libraries. In order to fulfill this role effectively, the library's leadership must not only have command of the business of information management but must also thoroughly understand the institution's business. The library is at the intersection of major challenges in the health care delivery system, higher education, biomedical research, computer and communications technology, and scholarly communication. As the institution develops and implements policies and practices in all these areas, the library must be able to anticipate and respond to information needs in a way that advances the goals of the institution [13].

The library partners with its academic health center in achieving institutional success and excellence through building relationships for effective knowledge management in the four primary missions: clinical practice, education, research, and community service [14]. New roles have developed for libraries that focus on clinical and research data management and participation on teams to support research and clinical care. Implicit in all library relationships is the provision of technology and services applied to information resources and data creation, curation, storage, access and preservation. Future library leaders must be change agents and have the ability to navigate education, clinical, and research trends to tailor resources and services to their institutions. Examples of current trends include the integration of information resources into the electronic health record, the changing landscape of scholarly communication, systematic review services, consumer and patient education, data management and data integrity services, and the development and deployment of technologies supporting teaching, research and health care.