



# Transformation, Opportunity, Identity: Reflections on a Decade in a Hospital Medical Library



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## Transformation

The Medical Library underwent an involuntary transformation in 2015 when its space was identified as a appropriate location for a training space for our new electronic health records team. Sixteen shelves of rolling journal storage were removed to build the room, which now occupies the back half of the library, with a wall and a door dividing the space. Five full time EHR training staff members are located here, conducting training sessions regularly.

**Weeding**  
DOCLINE request reports informed journal weeding process  
Regional title retention such as *Southern Medical Journal* and *Alabama MD* emphasized  
Usage and currency informed the book weeding process

## Updated Service Model

**Emphasis on Proactive Information Delivery**  
Rapid response information after Joint Commission and other surveys  
Hospital Best Practice Committee packets  
LibGuides host content for Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Journal Club presentations  
Nursing Journal Club  
Nursing student orientation for students on their clinical rotations  
Employed nurses who are working on advanced degrees are identified through their managers and sent an informational welcome email

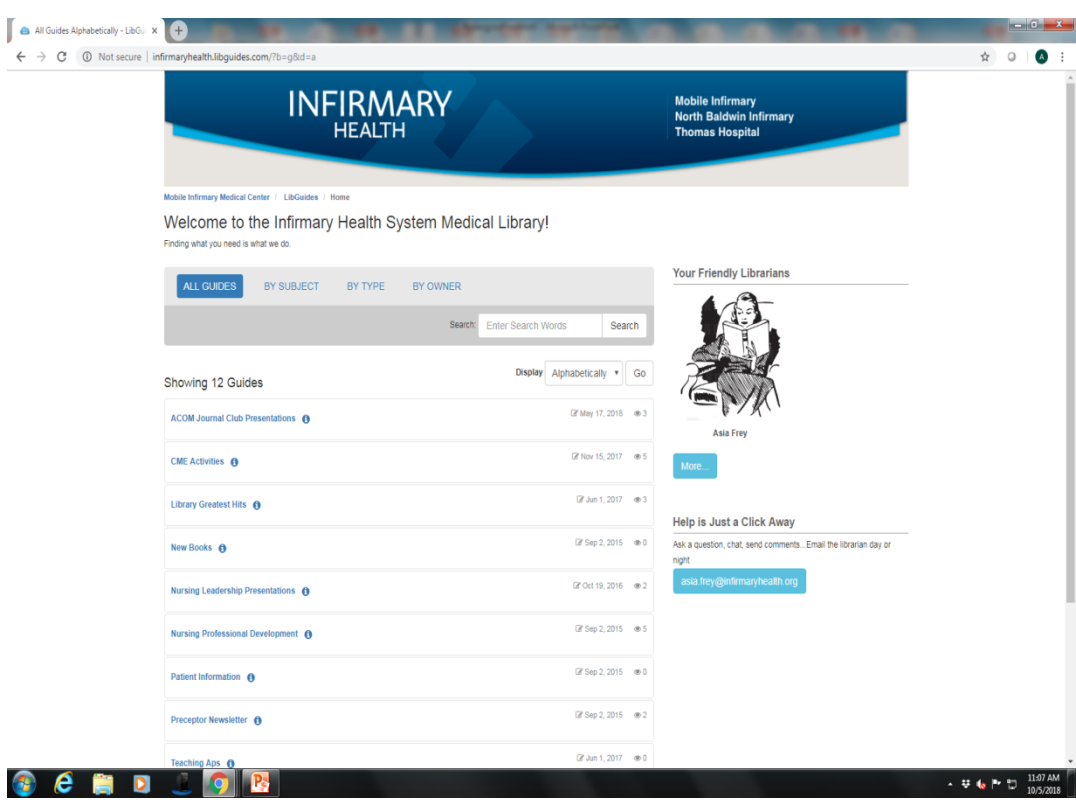
**Wider Range of Patrons**  
Nurses  
Nursing Students  
Clinical Employees  
Medical Students  
In the past, 90% of all library duties were for physicians. Now 40% of duties are performed for non-physician patrons.  
The hospital now employs increasing numbers of hospitalist physicians, and the library is a key meeting place and de facto office for them.

What Happened to the library? Where are the books?

When the construction process began, people took notice and expressed concern and support.



Most comments concerned this red armchair, which remains in the hallway.



LibGuides screenshot

## Opportunity

**Increased Involvement with Other Hospital Departments:**  
Serving as facilitator for Nursing Residency Program Evidence Based Practice Capstone projects  
Partnering with physician preceptors on Alabama College of Osteopathic medicine  
Editing services for patient materials to maintain appropriate reading level for patient literacy  
Medical Library added to physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner orientation

**Courses and Presentations Added**  
Evidence Based Research for Nurse Residents  
Consumer Health Literacy  
Library Resources for Nursing students- collaboration with Spring Hill College School of Nursing and Burke Library  
History of Nursing exhibition for Nurses Week, with exhibits in the hospital and in the museum- collaboration with the Mobile Medical Museum

**Professional Development Encouraged**  
Professional Association Membership added  
NNLM Courses:  
Getting Started with Information Outreach in Your Community: An Introduction.  
Clinical Information, Librarians and the NLM  
Consumer Health Literacy

## Evidence Based Nursing Capstone Project for Nurse Residents

Starting in 2018, The Medical Library is co-directing a 12 month poster project with 40 Nurse Residents.

**The instructional components include**  
PICOT  
Evidence appraisal and levels of evidence  
Small group librarian lead research sessions  
Poster presentation preparation  
Hospital-wide event presenting their projects, with a judging panel that will select a winner and send them to a conference

**Library value from this project**  
Drives traffic to the library's LibGuides, where resources and presentations are hosted  
Repeats three times throughout the year, with each new Nursing Residency Cohort, groups ranging in size from 40-60 nurses  
Supports the hospital's goal of national certification for the new Nursing Residency Program

## Identity

The librarian still performs literature searches for physicians for patient care every day  
The print collection is maintained on a smaller scale. Physician preceptors for ACOM students are the driving force behind collection development decisions  
The threat to the library space ultimately proved that the hospital had many patrons who cared about keeping a medical library  
Physician champions of the library contacted administrators  
A special Historical Collection evolved out of the weeding process, highlighting documents, teaching slides, photographs and ephemera unique to the hospital staff  
The vitality of the library as place has only increased over time

## Solo Librarianship

The Medical Library in Mobile Infirmarium has operated under a solo librarian since it was established  
Virtual accessibility and technology help fill in the gaps for librarian's availability. A short welcome email to new physicians sets up a chain of communication.  
Lib Guides added as a virtual presence when the librarian is not in the library  
The physical library is available to patrons 24 hours a day, and sees usage throughout that time  
Pick up and drop off of requests is a simple, effective cornerstone of our services  
Humble paper artifacts like faxes and business cards still do important work

	Before	After
Books	800	250
Journal Holdings	125	32
Square Footage	1100	600

What began as a challenge to the library's space, ultimately proved and cemented the library's value.

## Contact

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