New Roles:
Professional Staff Sharing between a Hospital and an Academic Library

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Where I Work

- USC (my employer)
  - Norris Medical Library (NML)
  - Information Specialist
    - Reference
    - Instruction

- Childrens Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA)
  - Health Sciences Library
  - Manager
    - Everything
Bigger Picture

USC
- Academic library
- 1 of 13 librarians
- Clientele
  - Medicine
  - Pharmacy
  - Nursing
  - OT/PT
  - Administration

CHLA
- Hospital Library
- 1.5 FTE
  - .5 professional
  - 1.0 library assistant
- Clientele
  - Clinicians
  - Patient care services
  - Researchers
  - Administration
Creation of the Position

- CHLA librarian moved to new position
- Suggested a more co-operative arrangement between the two institutions
- Hospital moving towards outsourcing of positions
- Mutually beneficial
Pros - CHLA

- Cheaper and faster document delivery
  - Implementation of Ariel system
  - Elimination of messenger position
- Easier access to NML’s resources, staff, and classes
- Elimination of journal duplication saves space
Pros - NML

- Name recognition at CHLA
- Direct marketing to subset of clientele
- CHLA can be a test group for new product evaluation
Pros - Librarian

- Knowledge of different areas of librarianship
- Different job on different days
- Better understanding of how the “other half” lives
Cons

- Steep learning curve at one end or the other
- Less librarian “face time” at CHLA
- Requires scheduling flexibility
- Different job on different days
Problems/Issues

- Conflicting priorities
  - Dividing time wisely
- Declining library budget
  - Don’t we get that through NML?
- Ownership of resources
- Lack of control
Why This Works

- Teaching hospital with strong medical schools ties
- Same IP range
- Strong support from NML librarians
- Knowledgeable library assistant
- Training by previous librarian
Summary

- Wonderful experience for the right institution/person
- Improves the quality of service in both places
- Still an experiment
  - Once outsourced, the position may be difficult to get back
Questions?

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