Librarians at the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University support the research efforts of the medical students and faculty. We also provide reference and information services to the clinical staff of Cooper University Hospital. Over the past two years, Cooper Hospital and Rowan University have had an increased emphasis on conducting and publishing research. In response to the proliferation of requests for assistance, the librarians have streamlined existing resources and developed new tools to meet these needs. These innovative services address the following processes:
- Database searching
- Journal selection and appraisal
- Publication guides
- Training our scholars.

Evolving roles for the CMSRU librarians include:
- Literature and editorial support in the publication of the Cooper University Hospital Annual Report
- An extensive role in the development of the University’s Institutional Repository.
- A new service, the CMSRU researcher profile.
- Managing editor roles on the new Cooper Rowan Medical Journal.
- Supporting the publication of the hospital’s annual “Cooper Authors” report.

The CMSRU library is a partner and major facilitator in the creation of a new library-listed medical journal, entitled the “Cooper Rowan Medical Journal” (CRMJ). CRMJ is an open-access, partially student-run, peer-reviewed journal encompassing up-to-date research, where the first authors are current medical students, allied health-care students, or residents/fellows (in all years) in training. The library teamed up with CMSRU faculty and medical students to establish the journal, create policies and training, and to serve as managing editors on the project.

Librarians at the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University have encountered increasing requests for assistance with the publishing process. Some of the most common questions include:
- Where should I submit my manuscript?
- How do I avoid low quality & predatory journals?
- What will be the return on my investment?

A new service called “Journal Selection Reports” was created to answer these questions. Librarians develop a list of potential journals using manuscript matching software and other databases to make a list of potential journals.

The CMSRU library has always provided “targeted, on-demand” literature searching and training for its patrons to support clinical research and patient care. Now many searches go beyond databases such as PubMed, and include complex search strategies, particularly those that are support of the Cooper Hospital Process Improvement department. Recently, these search services have been augmented to include training on searching for systematic reviews, searching the gray literature, and working with citation management software like EndNote.

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The CMSRU library subscribes to LibGuides software to create research guides for its patrons. The librarians developed the Pub Hub research guide meant to be a one-stop-shop for answers to many questions about scholarly publishing. Topics covered in the guide include:
- Tips for navigating journal submission process
- An explanation of concepts related to open access publishing
- How keep track of your publications and protect yourself in publishing

This has become one of the most consulted library resources.

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Rowan University Library has a BePress-powered institutional repository called Rowan Digital Works. A new service, developed by the librarians, allows for the creation of “researcher profiles” for both hospital and medical school faculty which highlight their scholarship and publications. Through the use of links and field searching, these profiles allow for more collaboration across the University. Faculty are also encouraged to upload open access versions of the research to the repository to be archived and indexed in Google Scholar.

The CMSRU library has established a unique partnership with the Cooper University Hospital’s Research Institute. The librarians were able to update and modernize the process of creating the Cooper Authors Annual Report, which features the scholarly publications of each hospital department. The report was transformed from an antiquated, manual cut and paste document to a librarian vetted, automated report, using complex saved search strategies from the PubMed and Scopus databases. The librarians are credited with assisting the clinical faculty track their aggressive research publication goals.

With an increased focus on research and publishing, future plans include expanding our staff. These potential new staff will allow the library to have an increased role at our institutions and will provide:
- Light and medium manuscript editing services
- Grant management and support for the library, CMSRU and broader Camden community
- Advanced research data management support

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