Considering the Place of Practice-based Evidence within EBLIP

Denise Koufogiannakis
University of Alberta
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EBP in LIS

• Adapted from a medical model
• Creation of critical appraisal guidelines, workshops, continuing education
• Main focus on research evidence
• Criticisms re: exclusion of qualitative research evidence, narrowness of the hierarchy of evidence, etc
The problem

• What about other things librarians use in decision making, like usage stats, user feedback, our own knowledge of a particular situation? There has to be a place for these types of things. What is that place?

• Is formal, published research, always the best evidence?
Research Questions

• In the practice of librarianship, what types of evidence influence our decision making?
• How do we account for non-research evidence in EBLIP? Where does it fit?
What is evidence?

• Higgs and Jones (2000) note that evidence is “knowledge derived from a variety of sources that has been subjected to testing and has found to be credible.”

• The Oxford English Dictionary states that evidence is “something serving as a proof” (OED, 2011).
A practice-based perspective

Practice theory

– “embodied capacities such as know-how, skills, tacit understanding, and dispositions.”
  • Schatzi 2001, p.7.

Knowing in practice

– Knowing how and knowing that – Ryle, 1946
– Tacit knowledge – Polyani, 1966
– Knowing is in our action – Schön, 1983
Practice-based evidence in other professions

- Gabbay and Le May (2011) – medicine and nursing
- Fox (2003) - sociology
- Rolfe, Jasper and Freshwater (2011) – healthcare
Practice-based evidence

a. Local evidence

b. Professional knowledge
Local evidence examples

- Patron feedback
- Librarian observation
- Reports from colleagues
- Assessment and evaluation of programs
- Usage data
- Organizational directions
Professional knowledge examples

- Formal and informal learning
- On the job training
- Tacit knowledge
- Reflection

E.g.
- How to build good collections
- How to deal effectively with people

The ART of our practice.
Bringing the evidence sources together

- Research Evidence
- Local evidence
- Professional knowledge
Ask yourself...

What do I already know?

What local evidence is available?

What does the literature say?

What other information do I need to gather?

How does the information I have apply to my context?

What worked? What didn't? What did I learn?

Make a decision
THANK YOU!
References