Hitting our Stride: 
Reflections Four Years Later from a Born-Digital Medical Library

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Born Digital Strategy

- Not to own content
  - In medicine, we traditionally use published journal literature from the last 5 to 10 years.
  - We’re not “book” users.
  - Core clinical books digitized & aggregated by database providers. Used as quick look-up.

- Agile systems & platforms to support mobile device use
  - We’re primarily tablet and smartphone users in the clinical setting.

- Do not have an archival mission.
  - Access to journal articles and print materials available through DOCLINE, Interlibrary Loan, Get It Now, or Reprints Desk.
Chat Box Questions for the Audience

- If you had 9 months to build a new digital (subject) library from scratch, where would you begin?

- How much money do you think you’d need to start a digital library?
My Library’s Set Up Story

- A born-digital medical library – built from scratch
  - We have a separate IP range & website from the academic library

- Web site designed to be mobile-centric

- Serials Solutions products run the “back office” and “linker” and SpringShare “LibGuides” for the “public web site.” Use BrowZine to promote journal collection.

- Used the SerSol Knowledgebase & run demand driven solutions.

- We’re running complex library systems with a staff of 4.5 FTE
Chat Box Questions for the Audience

- What skills should an information provider have in order to build, implement, and support a born-digital library?

- Should vendors and information schools team up to teach the next generation of librarians?
Managing the Bibliomatrix

- The “library” is “everywhere.” No fixed place.
- The “free-range” librarian. No fixed point of service.
- Learners & their mobile devices
- Fewer staff to organize & maintain collections
- Library systems are more complicated rather than agile
- Rethinking how we buy content
Building the library for tomorrow’s users

- Rise of the “mobile” student learner
  - Delivering the digital library on a mobile device
  - Designing our digital collection to be “social” so they’re findable in discovery tools
  - Apps that provide digestible knowledge

- Skillset needed? Are we preparing for our future?
  - Providing training at all career stages
Questions?

Feel free to write to me at: Elizabeth.Lorbeer@med.wmich.edu