

The Texas A&M University Medical Sciences Library/AABP Partnership: providing tools for AABP members to practice evidence-based veterinary medicine

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Introduction

Practicing evidence-based veterinary medicine, defined as the integration of best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient/client values, requires access to the research evidence. The Texas A&M University Medical Sciences Library and AABP are working together to provide AABP members with expert literature searching and access to the peer-reviewed literature.

Materials and Methods

AABP members register with the Medical Sciences Library to take advantage of these benefits, and requests are verified against a membership list provided by AABP. Logs of requests for literature searches and article delivery, by people coded as AABP members, were reviewed, and descriptive statistics about these were calculated.

Results

From the project launch in September 2013 through mid-March 2014, more than 100 AABP members have requested assistance. Additional AABP members may have submitted requests, but those individuals may have previously self-identified as Texas A&M Uni-

versity DVM alumni rather than AABP members. More than 90% of the 794 requests for literature were filled successfully. The most common reason for rejecting a request was that it was an inappropriate request, e.g., requesting an entire book; the second most common was inability to locate the item based on the information supplied in the request. Of the 724 filled requests, half were from 12 journals. The average turnaround time from request to delivery was 1.43 days. Fewer than 20 literature searches were requested. Approximately half of the requests for searching the literature were relatively straightforward and quick to answer, whereas 25 percent took librarians 15-30 minutes to answer and 25 percent took more than 30 minutes.

Significance

Removing barriers to information allows practitioners to practice in an evidence-based manner. Partnerships with information expertise and resource providers, such as librarians and libraries, are needed. AABP entered into a partnership with the Texas A&M University Medical Sciences Library to provide this support as a member benefit. Many eligible AABP members are not currently taking advantage of this benefit and are urged to consider doing so.