
Ovid® Synthesis

Showcase the value of the library
with an innovative research solution



Executive summary

It is the role of medical librarians to routinely find, analyze, and provide access to critical information that supports various research and quality improvement projects at healthcare organizations. Their expertise makes them a natural fit to be part of a team that facilitates research projects and highlights the need for a centralized workflow solution such as Ovid® Synthesis. A high-touch/high-tech synergy process can help ensure successful evidence-based practice (EBP) projects that improve patient safety and outcomes.

Introduction

Today's cost-conscious healthcare setting demands continuous efforts to improve care while reducing costs. Evidence-based practice is a problem-solving approach for assessing and synthesizing the best available evidence to generate initiatives for improving patient outcomes.¹ A 2023 scoping review of EBP projects showed that, when ROI was measured, it was positive 94% of the time.²

To harness the potential of a well-designed EBP project, healthcare organizations must ensure that clinicians receive sufficient training on the seven steps of EBP.^{2,3} The right technology framework is critical to supporting that preparedness. However, technology alone doesn't necessarily guarantee success.

Librarians are in a unique position to fill skill gaps. However, fielding questions manually, without a standard workflow or system, limits how much they can efficiently and effectively contribute to EBP efforts. An evidence-based workflow solution allows medical librarians to be true collaborators and add value to EBP projects, where their insights could increase the team's efficiency, skill sets, and outcomes.

Clinicians and healthcare staff may need to learn that medical librarians can help with more than a literature search. For example, medical librarians are experts at writing effective PICOT questions. An effective PICOT question is an EBP project's north star and provides a strategy for answering a clinical question utilizing the best available evidence to assist decision-making. If a team crafts an ineffective PICOT question and doesn't know it can tap a medical librarian for help, the project can be delayed and suffer from disjointed communications and other inefficiencies.

Technology and librarian experience = win-win

Ovid Synthesis is a transformational workflow solution that automates all the steps involved in EBP projects — formulating a PICOT question, performing literature searches, critically appraising the literature, building an evidence table, and generating and disseminating results. Its robust, user-friendly prompts guide clinicians, educators, and mentors who may have varied levels of research skills and training required to support today's EBP initiatives.

High-touch assistance can help where high-tech guidance leaves off. In this regard, Rachel Pinotti, MLIS, Research Librarian, Information Scientist, and EBP Educator of Pinotti Information Services LLC, and former Director of Library Education & Research

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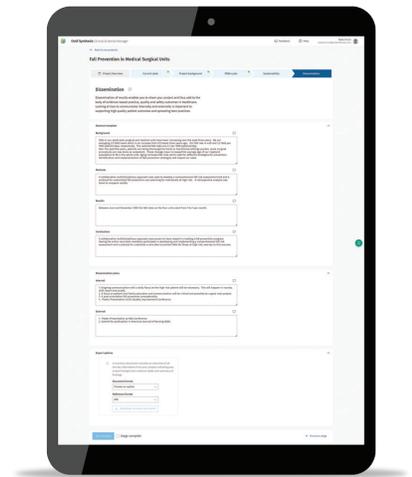
Services at Mount Sinai Health System, calls medical librarians “interventionalists.” Librarians can contribute oversight to each step of an EBP project, starting with assessing the suitability of the PICOT question, which can be a challenge even for facilitators.

While a librarian’s expertise can help fill skill gaps, Ovid Synthesis enables them to see each step of an EBP project via the product’s dashboard, filters, and embedded collaboration tools, such as the commenting features. Access to those projects enables medical librarians to assess if and when team members need assistance or instruction. For example, a librarian can provide guidance before a scheduled project planning session if a team still needs to form or refine a PICOT question. Timely intervention can improve efficiency and effectiveness at each project milestone.

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Librarians can:

				
Coach participants on how to do literature searches	Help them assess the best literature sources to use	Review and comment on the evidence table that Ovid Synthesis builds from the search results	Augment the decision-support tools built into the critical appraisal of the literature	Assist with the dissemination of findings.



Scalability and expanded potential

Librarians can support EBP projects and research in many ways — and champion the use of Ovid Synthesis throughout the institution. Amy Six-Means, MLIS, medical librarian and liaison within Nursing Research & Evidence-Based Practice at Children’s Health in Dallas, TX, states that departments, including Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, have expressed an interest in using Ovid Synthesis across campuses. Risk Management and Policy Development are also strong candidates for using Ovid Synthesis in a way that crosses many disciplines. Such usage can break down silos, improve collaboration across the organization, and increase sharing of resources and findings.

Suzanne Duncan, Director of Library Services at Sentara Healthcare, states that their success in using Ovid Synthesis with their nurse residency program has led to faster uptake in starting and completing their EBP projects. As a result, Duncan and others in the system are evaluating the use of the solution with the college and medical school that are part of Sentara’s Virginia/North Carolina health system. Residencies and fellowships could benefit from its project workflow capabilities and its step-by-step guidance.

Stephanie Harris, MSP, AHIP, Research Scientist, and Medical Librarian at AdventHealth, states that they want to customize an Ovid Synthesis template for a possible research application. By doing so, they hope to develop an IRB-ready protocol as the output, which could increase the efficiency in writing an IRB and ensuring it conforms to industry and institutional standards.

Conclusion

The library can support EBP beyond literature searches, and Ovid Synthesis is a powerful vehicle for showcasing that value. The solution can help improve clinical practice and patient safety, increasing the library's visibility and value at an institutional level — a win-win for the project and every patient who will benefit from the team's results.

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The medical library can support EBP beyond literature searches, and Ovid Synthesis is a powerful vehicle for showcasing that value.

Scan the QR code to visit the Ovid Synthesis website to learn more, or contact sales@ovid.com for a personalized demo.

synthesis.ovid.com



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