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Research into Practice: the Path to Development of an African Network of Knowledge Brokers among Health Librarians

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Abstract

The knowledge broker role is an opportunity for librarians to support health care workers' by inserting knowledge into the nurse's frontline clinical practice. Conception of an African network of knowledge brokers arose out of a knowledge broker project for health care workers initiated at Chitambo District hospital of Chitambo district in Central Zambia by the Friends of Chitambo. The pilot knowledge broker learning course was designed through a collaborative network between organisations in Scotland, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Zambia. The course was set in modules corresponding to elements of the Promoting Action on Research Implementation Framework –Evidence, Context and Facilitation. Formation of the African knowledge broker network was instigated through the course designed for health librarians from Zambia and Zimbabwe. The course has been refined and was to be delivered to six health librarians from Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia in March 2020; which was postponed due to COVID-19. An envisaged online version could not take place as most participants indicated lack of access to the internet due to the fact that their workplaces went on recess owing to COVID-19. The pilot knowledge broker learning course for Africa marks the beginning of the practice of knowledge brokering by African health librarians.



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