Information for the Best

Éva Orbán, Katalin Bikádi
Veterinary Science Library, Archives and Museum
Szent István University, Budapest, Hungary
("Researcher on a wheel” by Beáta Bakos DVM)

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Aims

- Meeting better understanding of the research and publication process
  - Where does information need to arise?
  - What kind of information is needed via which channel?
- Increase researchers' awareness of available resources and possibilities
- Strengthen the link between the library and researchers
- Market segmentation and development of special services for researchers
- Improve the visibility and support of the library
Who are the Best? (materials and methods)

- total population (academic and research staff): 150
- 100 most cited articles between 2005-2014 in Web of Science, Scopus, MTMT (Hungarian Scientific Bibliography Database) - 167 articles, 87 in at least 2 databases, by 25 authors (from the faculty)
- best of the year 2014 + department heads - 29 authors
- target population= 54
- questionnaire survey (16 questions) online - 17 answers
- qualitative survey: structured interviews - 8 interviews (1-1.5 hours)

- Indicative results
Who are the Best?
(a possible composite indicator)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>INDICATOR</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>career length in years (since first publication)</td>
<td>career years (CY)</td>
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<tr>
<td>independent citations total</td>
<td>independent citations/CY</td>
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<tr>
<td>total impact factor</td>
<td>total IF/CY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hirsch-index</td>
<td>H index/CY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>social networking activity (concrete list)</td>
<td>„Social score” (weight!)</td>
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The questionnaire
(some important findings)

1. Average number of simultaneous research projects: 4
2. The average number of hours spent with reading weekly: over 6.5
3. Available research funds: under 3300 EUR - 8, between 3300-33000 EUR - 8, over 33000 - 1
4. Allocation of a research budget:
   ▶ presentation at conferences
   ▶ participation at conferences
   ▶ page charges of Open Access publications
5. The average number of scientific articles published in peer reviewed journals in the last 5 years: 17
6. **Average number of attended conferences per year:** 1-5

7. **Memberships:** Hungarian or international research group, scientific body, social network, faculty research group, international mailing list/forum

8. **The 5 most important information sources:** PubMed (11), Web of Science (8), Scopus (6), Science Direct (6), Scholar Google (5), Google (3), ResearchGate (3), CAB Abstracts (2)

9. **The most important information sources (in research):**

   - Faculty library
   - Other libraries
   - Searching the internet
   - Purchase of individual articles
   - Literature provided by international partners
   - Subscribed databases
   - Electronic journals
   - Social sites (e.g. Research Gate, Linked In)
   - Direct communication with foreign experts
   - Scientific blogs, reference sharing, etc.
10. Characteristics of information gathering and use

I survey the literature when planning the research project.

All research starts with a complete survey of literature.

I do literature searching myself.

I let my assistants do the primary literature searching.

I review the literature myself.

Literature reading is shared by the research group.

I spend a few days with processing literature.

I use reference manager (EndNote, Zotero, etc.) for processing literature.

I use filesharing for sharing literature (such as DropBox, G. Drive, etc.)

I continuously follow literature in my field.

I set e-mail alerts in databases to enhance literature survey.

I use RSS to follow literature.

I rely heavily on personal exchange of information.

Research is motivated by lack of literature.

There is need for literature survey several times during a project.

Special skills and experience are required for searching and managing...

Primary literature searching is asked from the librarian.

I often feel important information is not available.

I have a system of my own for managing literature.
The questionnaire
(some important findings)

11. Significance of resources from research point of view - WoS, Scopus, PubMed, Library catalogue, Scholar Google, Google

12. Satisfaction with library services:
   - choice of resources,
   - ease of access of resources
   - interlibrary article acquisition
   - aid to use databases
The questionnaire
(some important findings)

13. Characteristics of publication

I usually work with the same co-workers and authors in a topic.
I usually write the first version of papers myself.
Writing an article in English is a great challenge.
I follow the citations to my publications.
I prefer OA journals.
I ensure that my publications appear in OA repositories.
The polishing and correction of first drafts is one of my strengths.
It is the leader of the research groups who should select the journal for publication.
The journal is selected by the group.
My foreign partners often publish our articles in their institutional repositories.
I am willing to share my paper via social media or send it by e-mail.
I communicate with the working group members primarily personally or by chat.
The questionnaire
(some important findings)

14. Criteria for selecting journals: profile and IF of the journal

15. Factors affecting the success of publication: originality, good selection of journal, proper article type

16. Challenges related to research:
   - up-dating data in Hungarian Scientific Bibliography Database
   - economic management of the project
   - handling references
   - following citations
   - project management, management of a huge set of data, manuscript preparation
The interviews  
(in depth with researchers)

Main points:
1. How searching and following literature have changed during the researcher’s career?
2. Where do new research topics come from? What is the motivation?
3. Types of research and publications
4. Characteristic processes of research and publication and information needs at different points of the processes
5. Collaboration with fellow researchers and co-authors with special reference to PhD and thesis students
6. What are the measures of success in research?
7. What are the characteristics of excellent researchers
8. Use of new technology (applications, programmes, social media, etc.)
9. What do you miss in terms of information provision, library services, etc.  
Suggestions.
How searching and following literature have changed during the researcher’s career?

- Shift from paper to electronic - from systematic to occasional
- Following literature through the „virtual college” (suggestions)
- Archiving practices - on pcs, but like in the good old paper age
- Young researchers: what is not available electronically...
Where do new research topics come from? What is the motivation?

- The funding of research
- Motivations
  - Genuine interest in a topic
  - Topics that come from practice
  - Enhancing practice by developing new methods, drugs, etc.
  - Orders of external organisations
  - Trends which are worth further investigation
  - Cooperation with foreign/international research groups
  - Supplementary investigations coupled with other project
  - New approach to old research topics – “reopening the project”
  - Projects planned for the specific announcements.
Types of research and publications

Characteristic processes ... Collaboration ...

- Amazing variety both in research and publication
- Greatly varied information needs
- Varied publication practices
What are the measures of success in research?

- Publications - but not so much IF
- tutoring (PhD, graduate student in research)
- success in applications (related to success in publication)

Conflicts:
- the usefulness of research for society may not be measured by IF
- there is no time to elaborate papers as they should be elaborated
- good teacher or good researcher?
What are the characteristics of excellent researchers?

An excellent researcher
- has solid knowledge of his/her field
- can decide what has to be investigated
- can anticipate research results
- has good logical thinking
- can focus on his/her work
- is precise, can select proper methodology
- can manage data correctly and efficiently
- can recognise interrelatedness
- has a good skill in scientific writing

An excellent researchers is
- open-minded
- curious and motivated
- dedicated
- (very) industrious
- cooperative
- patient
- fond of what he is doing and enjoys it
- lucky
Use of new technology (applications, programmes, social media, etc.)

- Social networking: 40 of 54
- Use of applications, softwares: generation gap?

What do you miss in terms of information provision, library services, etc. Suggestions
Service package for researchers

Resources
OA and other journals
Researcher profiles
Hungarian Scientific Bibliographic Database
Citations
Scientometrics
Enhancing scientific writing
Research Data Management
Applications and softwares supporting scientific work
Soon to come....
* applications for funds
* miscellanea
Conclusions

- Researchers are self-sufficient information users.
- Their information use is very colourful depending on field and personality.
- The library’s messages do not reach all of them - proper channels and modes of communication must be found.
- They have few, but special needs. The library should be sensitive to these needs and become a mediator of outside services which satisfy the needs.
- This requires the following of trends, the acquisition of new skills and further training of librarians.

Further hypotheses to be investigated:

- There are differences between the information use and information gathering habits of different generations of researchers.
- With targeted services and support the effectiveness of information use of researchers can be improved which will also increase satisfaction with and support of the library.
Thank you!