Creating and Sustaining a Library Journal Club at a French-Language University

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1. Bibliothèque de la santé
2. Bibliothèque paramédicale
3. Bibliothèque des lettres et sciences humaines
Université de Montréal - Overview

- Founded in 1878
  - Historically, 6th university established in the province - of a total of 19 universities in the province of Québec

- Located in Montréal, Québec

- 45,790 students
  - 33,890 Undergraduate (74%)
  - 11,900 Graduate (26%)

- 15 faculties and schools – including a Library and Information Science school

- 2,800 professors and researchers

- Research income: $522.9 M

- Teaching language : French
Libraries and librarians at UdeM

- 18 libraries on three campuses
- Library material expenditures in 2016-17: 10,832,330$
- 87 librarians: 62 professional positions / 25 management positions
Librarian Role and Status

- Librarians in French-speaking universities of Québec do not have faculty nor academic status; they are considered support staff
- Professional development is by demand only, through a form
- Research is not part of the job description
- Historical reasons
- Consequences on the work
Creating a Library Journal Club – the Beginning

- Biomedical librarians supporting evidence-based practice (EBP) in health sciences
- Wish to apply EBP to our own field of work
- Awareness of a library journal club at McGill University
Creating a Library Journal Club - Enablers

- McGill Library Journal Club
  - Invitation to a meeting
  - Permission to translate and use content from their wiki workspace

- Université de Montréal's Library and Information Science School
  - Permission to use critical appraisal tool from the Research methods course
  - Strong interest for the project

- Permission to translate the EBL critical appraisal checklist from:
Creating a Library Journal Club - Barriers

- Organisational structure
- No public access platform available at UdeM to host the Library Journal Club's documentation
- Problems with the use of a free public access wiki platform
  - Data preservation
  - Email address for the creation of an account
  - Language
Kudos to our McGill colleague Michael David Miller for proposing the Club's name.

http://clubdelecturebibudem.pbworks.com/
Club d'échanges savants - Goals

- From McGill's Library Journal Club:
  - To integrate research into practice by using publications to assist in decision-making;
  - To foster critical thinking when reading published research;
  - To promote research relevant to [Université de Montréal], the university community, and the profession;
  - To create a collaborative environment for learning, professional development, and documenting best practice.
Club d'échanges savants – Critical Appraisal Workshop

- Purpose and functioning of the Library Club
- Evidence-based Librarianship principles
- Critical appraisal of an article
- 15 participants

Club d'échanges savants – Year 1 Overview

- 5 meetings / 5 presenters / 2 coordinators
- 36 participants / 16 unique participants
- Median number of participants: 6
- Articles topics:
  - Information seeking & social media;
  - Library use & academic success;
  - Communication;
  - Academic journals cost;
  - Users engagement
Questions based mostly on the *Library Journal Club Network Guidelines*


[https://journalclubnetwork.wordpress.com/](https://journalclubnetwork.wordpress.com/)

Club participants

- Response rate: 94% (n=15)
- Benefits
- Ways to improve

All librarians

- Response rate: 40% (n=34)
- Use of the Club wiki platform
- Barriers to participation
Club d'échanges savants – Survey Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BENEFITS</th>
<th>Respondents (n=15)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social interaction</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading time for research articles</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge building</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical appraisal skills improvement</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useful for decision making</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### WAYS TO IMPROVE (active participants)  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggestion</th>
<th>Respondents (n=15)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have meetings on work time</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vary time of meeting</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open club meetings to library technicians</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION (all librarians)  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barrier</th>
<th>Respondents (n=34)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meetings on lunchtime</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No time available for reading selected articles</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No interest for selected articles</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changes approved by the Board of library directors
  - Meetings on work time
  - Variable schedule

Other changes
  - More articles in French
  - More articles published by UdeM researchers
  - Decrease use of a critical appraisal tool

Changes postponed to next year
  - Invitation to library technicians
  - New critical appraisal workshop
  - Third coordinator
  - Budget for snacks
Club d'échanges savants – Year 2 -- Impacts

- Easier recruitment of presenters!
- 13 new participants
- Increased discussion on our profession and practices
- Shared expertise
Club d'échanges savants – Ideas to Explore

- Invitation to Library and Information Sciences students
- Joint meeting with McGill Library Journal Club
- Meeting followed by a social activity: lunch or dinner
- Participants as collaborators or support group for research projects
Acknowledgements

- McGill Library Journal Club coordinators; Library Journal Club Network creators; Michael David Miller; Christine Dufour; Lindsay Alcock; Club d'échanges savants' participants

Discover LIS research in French (outside bilingual forums)

- Mailing list in French: EBSI-L
- Journal Documentation et bibliothèque
- Journal Argus
Bibliography


