

Capacity Building in a Bangladeshi Allied Health Library

Paola Durando MLS,¹ Suzanne Maranda MLS,¹ and Mohesana Mosammat MSS, MA in ISLM²

¹Bracken Health Sciences Library, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, Canada and ²Bangladesh Health Professions Institute – Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed Library, Chapain, Savar, Bangladesh

Introduction

Bangladesh, with its population of 157 million, extreme poverty, and disability prevalence of 32% (WHO, 2011), has a severe shortage of health care professionals. As the Bangladesh Health Professions Institute-Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (BHPI-CRP) continues to expand its allied health academic programs, its Library must increase capacity within limited resources.

Maternal and child health is a Canadian development priority. The Government of Canada Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development funded the Queen's University International Centre for the Advancement of Community-Based Rehabilitation (ICACBR) \$6.3 million to implement maternal and child health, education and disability awareness programs in Bangladesh from 2011-2017. The Queen's rehabilitation therapy liaison librarian is a project team member. The project is based at the BHPI-CRP, near Dhaka.

Objectives

- To develop a world-class e-library which provides users with unmediated access to scholarly health resources.
- To design and deliver ongoing information literacy sessions to foster a research and evidence-based practice culture amongst students, faculty and clinicians.
- To provide collegial support to the BHPI-CRP librarian in her role as a health sciences library leader in Bangladesh.

Methods

In 2013 an e-library was developed using a donated LibGuides site license. It provides access to a wealth of scholarly content provided at no cost to low income developing countries by HINARI, a partnership of the World Health Organization and commercial publishers. The e-library and HINARI terms of use and resources were presented to user groups. In 2014, hands-on information literacy classes were delivered to 134 learners in a newly-opened e-lab sited in the BHPI-CRP Library.

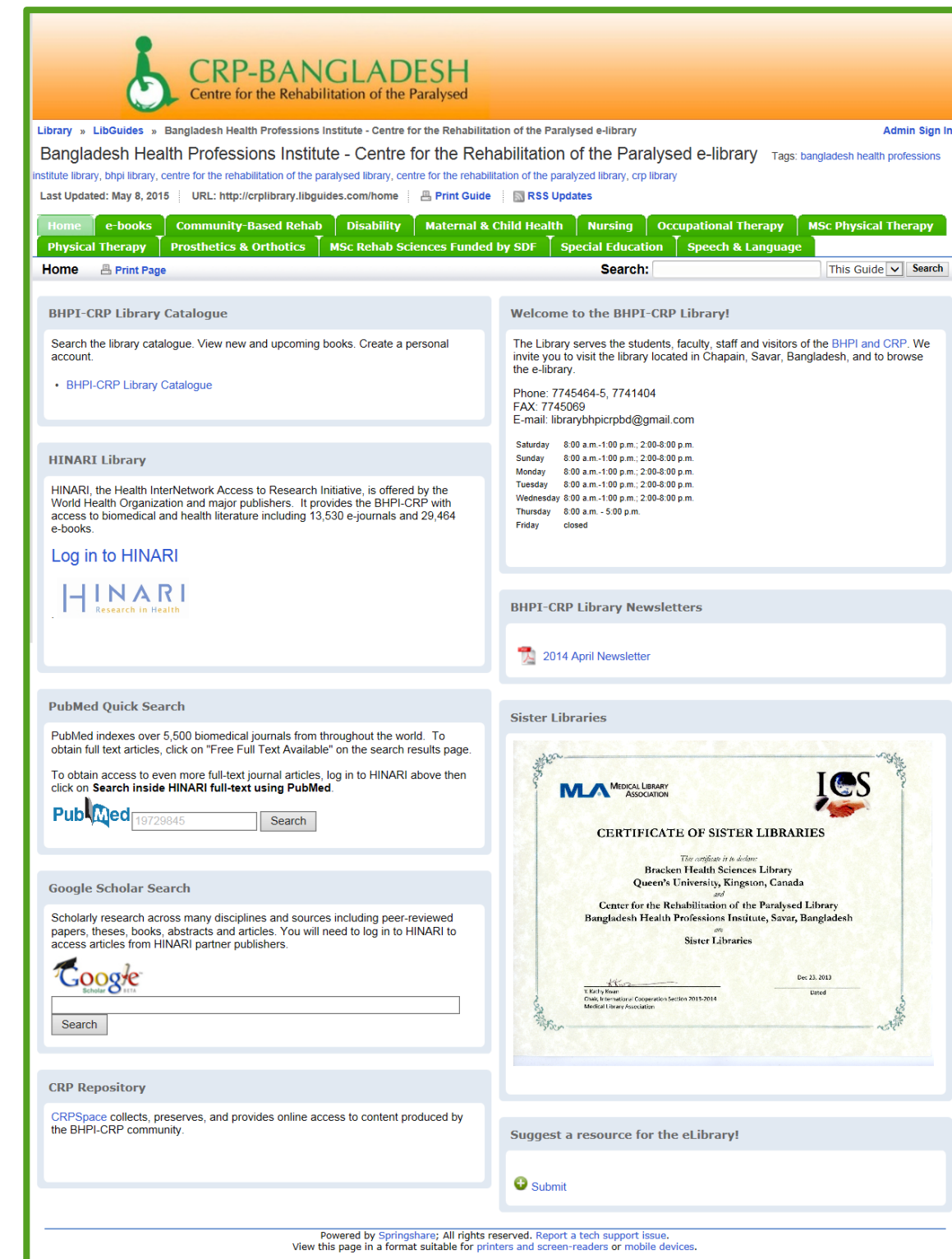


Figure 1. Bangladesh Health Professions Institute-Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed e-library. <http://crplibrary.libguides.com/home/>

“Accessing HINARI is always a good experience to find what I’m looking for, every moment for writing dissertation and research.”
4th year BScPT student



Figure 2. Introducing the e-library. January 2013.

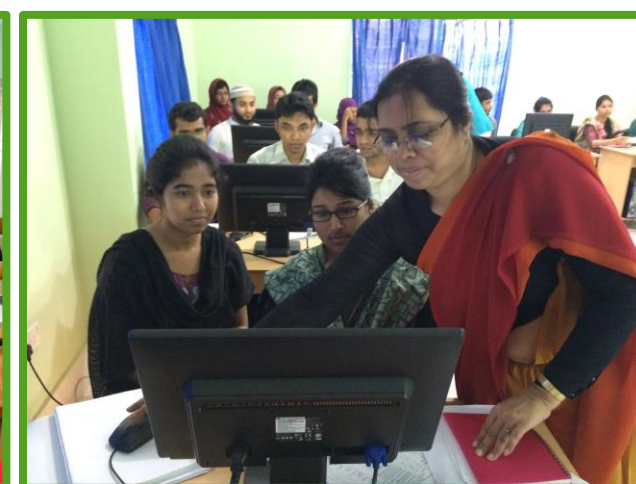


Figure 3. Information literacy session. April 2014.

	Faculty	Clinicians	Special Ed teachers	Prosthetics & Orthotics	BSc SLT yr 4	BSc Nurs yr 1	BSc PT yr 3	BSc OT yr 4	MSc PT yr 1
Catalogue searching	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Summon federated search	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Institutional repository	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
Gmail, Google			✓						
e-library overview	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HINARI resources & terms of use	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ERIC education database			✓						
PubMed	✓								✓
CINAHL	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews	✓						✓		✓
Essential Evidence Plus point-of-care tool		✓					✓		✓

Figure 4. Information literacy session content.

“Libraries, in every part of the world, can be reliable mechanisms for underpinning the delivery of sustainable development programmes.”
IFLA, 2013

Results

Since February 2013, the e-library homepage has had 25,331 page views. Of 134 learners who participated in information literacy sessions, 97 completed evaluations—68 had no further questions, and 13 had questions about resources and procedures.

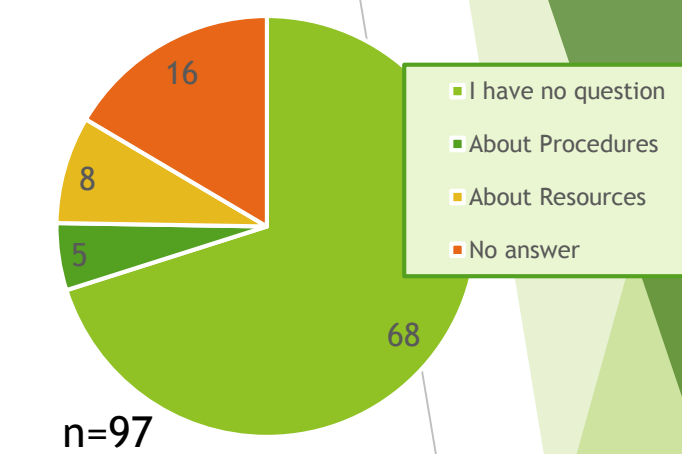
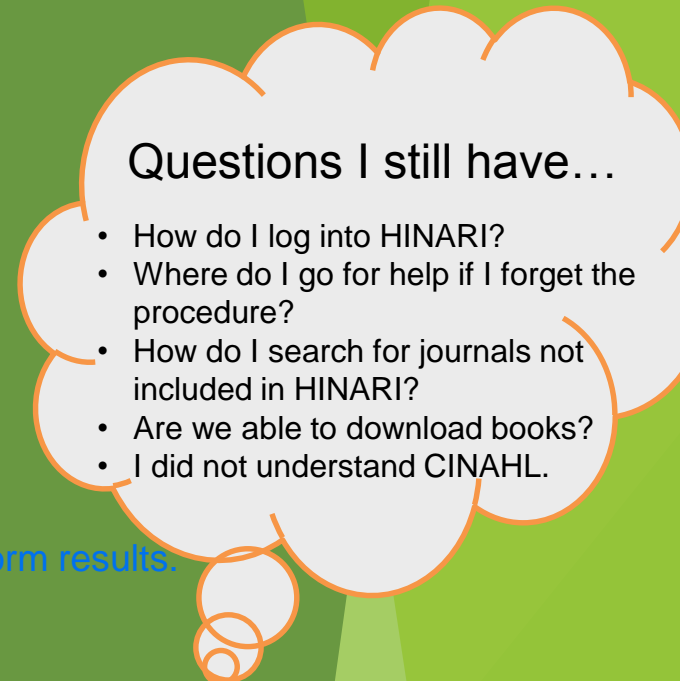


Figure 5. Information literacy evaluation form results.



Questions I still have...

- How do I log into HINARI?
- Where do I go for help if I forgot the procedure?
- How do I search for journals not included in HINARI?
- Are we able to download books?
- I did not understand CINAHL.

Conclusions

Ready access to scholarly resources, an experienced health sciences librarian and information literacy curriculum integration combine to foster a research and evidence-based practice culture at the BHPI-CRP. Despite vastly different settings, the Bracken Health Sciences Library and the BHPI-CRP Library share many common goals as both strive to positively impact the delivery of health care. Future collaboration between the MLA Sister Libraries may center on the BHPI-CRP Library hosting internships for newly-graduated librarians, thus building capacity for health sciences librarianship in Bangladesh.

References

- IFLA. (2013). *IFLA Statement on Libraries and Development*.
- WHO. (2011). *World Report on Disability*.

Acknowledgements

- Government of Canada Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development
- International Centre for the Advancement of Community-Based Rehabilitation (ICACBR), School of Rehabilitation Therapy, Queen's University
- Queen's University Library
- Reshma Parvin Nuri, BSPT, MPH for data compilation
- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
- Springshare library technology vendor for donating LibGuides site license