

October 15, 2008

«Adminname», «Title»
«Hospital»
«Address»
«City», «State», «Zip»

Dear «Salutation»:

During this year's National Medical Librarians Month, the National Network of Libraries of Medicine Southeastern/ Atlantic Region (NN/LM SE/A) thanks you for your continued support of your hospital librarian. In these tough economic times, it is easy to underestimate the value of such an important resource. Your librarian is a vital link between the vast network of libraries and information centers fostering seamless access to an expanding world of health information and your local health information needs.

In this era of evidence-based health care there is supporting data that access to librarians and the information resources provided by the library can improve health care and outcomes. The American Hospital Association's advocacy program for 2008, *Health for Life: Better Health. Better Health Care*, states that "good information is the gateway to good care." In addition, a recent study published in the *Journal of the Medical Library Association* showed that the participation of a librarian during morning report was associated with decreased length of hospital stay. Your librarian is an integral part of the health care team and understands the importance of clinical and scientific information in medical care and research. Librarians have the skills and education to assist health professionals to use information efficiently and effectively in the clinical setting.

Your librarian also supports other vital programs and services of your hospital with "good information" including:

- senior administration and decision makers (or) health care leadership
- evidence based research
- patient safety
- continuing education
- patients and their families

Please join us in thanking your medical librarian(s) for a job well done. And thank you again for your continued support of this vital member of the health care team.

Sincerely,

MJ Tooley, Director

Janice Kelly, Executive Director

American Hospital Association: <http://www.aha.org/aha/content/2008/pdf/08-issue-health-4-life.pdf>

Banks, DE, et al. Decreased hospital length of stay associated with presentation of cases at morning report with librarian support. *J Med Libr Assoc.* 2007 Oct;95(4):381-7.