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How Librarians Brought an NLM Exhibit to Their Institutions

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Objectives

Three libraries in Indianapolis provide a unique example of collaboration by hosting a National Library of Medicine traveling exhibit at three locations within the city. Hosting the exhibit, “Harry Potter’s World,” will provide greater awareness of the libraries and their host institutions through a fun educational atmosphere and bring attention to National Library of Medicine resources through Harry Potter stories.

Methods

The National Library of Medicine traveling exhibits are an overlooked resource that can benefit clinicians, researchers, students, educators and the general public. The poster showcases a unique collaboration between a consortium of libraries in central Indiana as a way to encourage all kinds of libraries to consider hosting an exhibit to engage their communities in health and medicine. A community college librarian requested funding from the Central Indiana Health Sciences Library Consortium (CIHSLC) for the National Library of Medicine traveling exhibit, “Harry Potter’s World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine” to come to her library and other libraries of CIHSLC. The community college librarian contacted NLM and reported back that NLM was agreeable to this unique request where three various organizations in one city collaborated to host an exhibit over three booking periods.

Results

Each of the three libraries hosted and promoted the exhibit through various marketing tools, such as events, flyers, and handouts. Students and faculty expressed their appreciation for the exhibit, and faculty members reached out to librarians on ways to incorporate the exhibit into assignments for health science students.

Conclusions

The collaboration of three libraries to bring a NLM travelling exhibit to Indianapolis was a success. Utilizing the resources of both the Consortium and the National Library of Medicine benefitted not only the libraries, but also the students and faculty who were impacted by experiencing the exhibit and made aware of the resources available to them through their library and the NLM.