

821 kms and Counting: Library Partnerships in Rural Ontario, Canada

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Abstract

Queen's University's Bracken Health Sciences Library is situated in Kingston, Ontario (Canada). We have established outreach partnerships with 7 community health care facilities in 10 locations within the primarily rural region labelled Southeastern Ontario. The partner institutions include teaching and community hospitals, public health departments and a rural health unit. One facility is directly across the street from the library while another can only be reached by plane – and for part of the year by ice road. There are no physical libraries or library staff members at the sites however each institution recognizes the importance of providing access to relevant, timely health information services to support evidence-based practice, teaching and research. Expert literature searches conducted by professional librarians are in high demand, as are customized one-on-one or group instruction sessions for medical and allied health personnel.

Although each partnership is unique, this poster will provide an overview of our program model which has proven highly successful. We will highlight how we have met the challenges of providing, at a distance:

- access to the appropriate resources and services in a timely manner
- instruction in the use of databases and e-resource collections
- document delivery
- resource selection and evaluation
- establishing and maintaining strategic relationships