

## Librarians' Role in Enhancing Health Literacy: A Comprehensive Scoping Review

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Health literacy (HL) is “the skills, knowledge, motivation, and capacity of a person to access, understand, appraise, and apply information to make effective health and health care decisions and take appropriate actions”. A scoping review was carried out using PRISMA guidelines to explore the roles of librarians in improving HL, the interventions they use, and identify the challenges they encounter in promoting health literacy. Two electronic databases (PubMed, CINAHL) and Google Scholar search engine were consulted using the terms “health literacy, library, and librarians”. The search generated a total of 1380 articles. After removing duplicates, the publication year was limited to 2020-2024 and 284 articles were screened through Rayyan QCRI - a web and mobile app for Systematic Reviews, 51 articles were included in the final analysis. The extracted data was analyzed and synthesized using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Majority of the research related to Librarians' Role in Enhancing HL has been conducted in the European Region (EURO) ( $n=22$ , 43%) and Region of the Americas (AMRO) ( $n=22$ , 43%) in equal amounts, followed by African region (AFRO) ( $n= 3$ , 6%), South-East Asia Region (SEARO) ( $n=2$ , 4%), Western Pacific Region(WPRO)( $n=2$ , 4%). The review highlighted librarians have been involved in enhancing HL in different roles including, Collaborator with Healthcare Professionals, Research Support Specialist, Educator, Health Information Specialist, and Community Outreach Coordinator. Several implemented interventions have been explored to enhance health literacy by librarians, including health information workshops, online resources, literacy programs, community outreach programs, creation of health literacy materials, and customized information services. Challenges were identified in promoting HL through librarians, including the public's perception of libraries as general information providers rather than health resources, limited legislation and awareness about library health services, lack of involvement of library staff in decision-making, insufficient benchmarks in LIS programs for health education, and a general lack of recognition of librarians as health literacy experts. The study recommends a multifaceted approach, including increased support, resources, community awareness, targeted training, and strengthened collaboration with healthcare organizations, all of which will contribute to improved health outcomes in the communities they serve.

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