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# Creating and Sustaining a Library Journal Club at a French-Language University

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## Université de Montréal - Overview

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- Founded in 1878
  - Historically, 6th university established in the province - of a total of 19 universities in the province of Québec
- Located in Montréal, Québec
- 45,790 students
  - 33,890 Undergraduate (74%)
  - 11,900 Graduate (26%)
- 15 faculties and schools – including a Library and Information Science school
- 2,800 professors and researchers
- Research income: \$522.9 M
- Teaching language : French



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## Libraries and librarians at UdeM

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- 18 libraries on three campuses
- Library material expenditures in 2016-17: 10,832,330\$
- 87 librarians: 62 professional positions / 25 management positions

## Librarian Role and Status

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- Librarians in French-speaking universities of Québec do not have faculty nor academic status; they are considered support staff
- Professional development is by demand only, through a form
- Research is not part of the job description
- Historical reasons
- Consequences on the work

## Creating a Library Journal Club – the Beginning

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- Biomedical librarians supporting evidence-based practice (EBP) in health sciences
- Wish to apply EBP to our own field of work
- Awareness of a library journal club at McGill University
  - <http://libjournalclub.pbworks.com/>

## Creating a Library Journal Club - Enablers

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- McGill Library Journal Club
  - Invitation to a meeting
  - Permission to translate and use content from their wiki workspace
- Université de Montréal's Library and Information Science School
  - Permission to use critical appraisal tool from the Research methods course
  - Strong interest for the project
- Permission to translate the EBL critical appraisal checklist from:
  - Glynn, L. (2006). A critical appraisal tool for library and information research. *Library Hi Tech*, 24(3), 387-399.

## Creating a Library Journal Club - Barriers

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- Organisational structure
- No public access platform available at UdeM to host the Library Journal Club's documentation
- Problems with the use of a free public access wiki platform
  - Data preservation
  - Email address for the creation of an account
  - Language

## Club d'échanges savants des bibliothèques UdeM - Up and Running



*Kudos to our McGill colleague Michael David Miller for proposing the Club's name.*

<http://clubdelecturebibudem.pbworks.com/>



## Club d'échanges savants - Goals

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- From McGill's Library Journal Club:
  - To integrate research into practice by using publications to assist in decision-making;
  - To foster critical thinking when reading published research;
  - To promote research relevant to [Université de Montréal], the university community, and the profession;
  - To create a collaborative environment for learning, professional development, and documenting best practice.

## Club d'échanges savants – Critical Appraisal Workshop

- Purpose and functioning of the Library Club
- Evidence-based Librarianship principles
- Critical appraisal of an article
- 15 participants



Koufogiannakis, D. (2011). Considering the place of practice-based evidence within Evidence Based Library and Information Practice (EBLIP). *Library and Information Research*, 35(111), 41-58.

## Club d'échanges savants – Year 1 Overview

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- 5 meetings / 5 presenters / 2 coordinators
- 36 participants / 16 unique participants
- Median number of participants: 6
- Articles topics:
  - Information seeking & social media;
  - Library use & academic success;
  - Communication;
  - Academic journals cost;
  - Users engagement

## Club d'échanges savants – Survey

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- Questions based mostly on the *Library Journal Club Network Guidelines*
  - Fitzgibbons, M., Kloda, L., & Miller-Nesbitt, A. (2017). Exploring the Value of Academic Librarians' Participation in Journal Clubs. *College and Research Libraries*, 78(6), 773-87.
  - <https://journalclubnetwork.wordpress.com/>
- Club participants
  - Response rate: 94% (n=15)
  - Benefits
  - Ways to improve
- All librarians
  - Response rate: 40% (n=34)
  - Use of the Club wiki platform
  - Barriers to participation

## Club d'échanges savants – Survey Results

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<b>BENEFITS</b>	<b>Respondents (n=15)</b>
Social interaction	87%
Reading time for research articles	73%
Knowledge building	53%
Critical appraisal skills improvement	33%
Useful for decision making	20%

## Club d'échanges savants – Survey Results

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<b>WAYS TO IMPROVE (active participants)</b>	<b>Respondents (n=15)</b>
Have meetings on work time	73%
Vary time of meeting	53%
Open club meetings to library technicians	40%

<b>BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION (all librarians)</b>	<b>Respondents (n=34)</b>
Meetings on lunchtime	59%
No time available for reading selected articles	40%
No interest for selected articles	28%

## Club d'échanges savants – Year 2- Changes

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- Changes approved by the Board of library directors
  - Meetings on work time
  - Variable schedule
- Other changes
  - More articles in French
  - More articles published by UdeM researchers
  - Decrease use of a critical appraisal tool
- Changes postponed to next year
  - Invitation to library technicians
  - New critical appraisal workshop
  - Third coordinator
  - Budget for snacks

## Club d'échanges savants – Year 2 -- Impacts

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- Easier recruitment of presenters!
- 13 new participants
- Increased discussion on our profession and practices
- Shared expertise



## Club d'échanges savants – Ideas to Explore

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- Invitation to Library and Information Sciences students
- Joint meeting with McGill Library Journal Club
- Meeting followed by a social activity: lunch or dinner
- Participants as collaborators or support group for research projects

- Acknowledgements
  - McGill Library Journal Club coordinators; Library Journal Club Network creators; Michael David Miller; Christine Dufour; Lindsay Alcock; Club d'échanges savants' participants
- Discover LIS research in French (outside bilingual forums)
  - Mailing list in French : [EBSI-L](#)
  - Journal [Documentation et bibliothèque](#)
  - Journal [Argus](#)

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