

You choose, we deliver: Providing educational opportunities to researchers in STEM

Nedelina Tchangalova · Eileen Harrington · Sarah Over · Stephanie Ritchie

ABSTRACT

Objective/Background

Subject librarians at the University of Maryland (UMD) Libraries have experienced an increased demand for research support not only in the health and medical sciences but also from education, engineering, agriculture, library science, humanities, and social sciences. With the goal to provide sustainable support to graduate students and faculty who are writing scientific texts, we developed a suite of systematic review services.

Methods

To introduce researchers to the process of compiling the best evidence on a particular topic, we developed online materials with resources supporting the systematic review cycle. To justify the librarian's time and efforts, we provided a description of the three-tiered free service. In addition, we designed a face-to-face workshop series based on participants' feedback. The pilot program was launched in three phases during the academic year of 2018-2019 under the UMD Libraries' Research Commons Unit.

Results

A total of 18 workshops in two locations were offered, including a webinar to a group of 10 international researchers. The workshops were attended by 124 including undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and librarians with 62% attendance from the registrants' pool of 200. New relationships with faculty were established resulting in three co-authored peer-reviewed publications, four joint projects underway, and one co-authored grant proposal. We received eight requests for consultation following or instead of in-person workshops. Another 12 research teams requested research assistance or workshops recordings.

Conclusions

The Systematic Review workshop series at UMD Libraries has been successful during the pilot phase. Benefits for librarians include increased expertise in conducting systematic reviews, familiarity with tools and techniques involved with it, creating new relationships with faculty and students, and co-authoring publications and grants. Designing online materials exposed this service to an international audience.

CONTACT

Nedelina Tchangalova
Public Health Librarian
nedelina@umd.edu

Eileen Harrington
Assistant Director and Health & Life Sciences Librarian
eharring@umd.edu

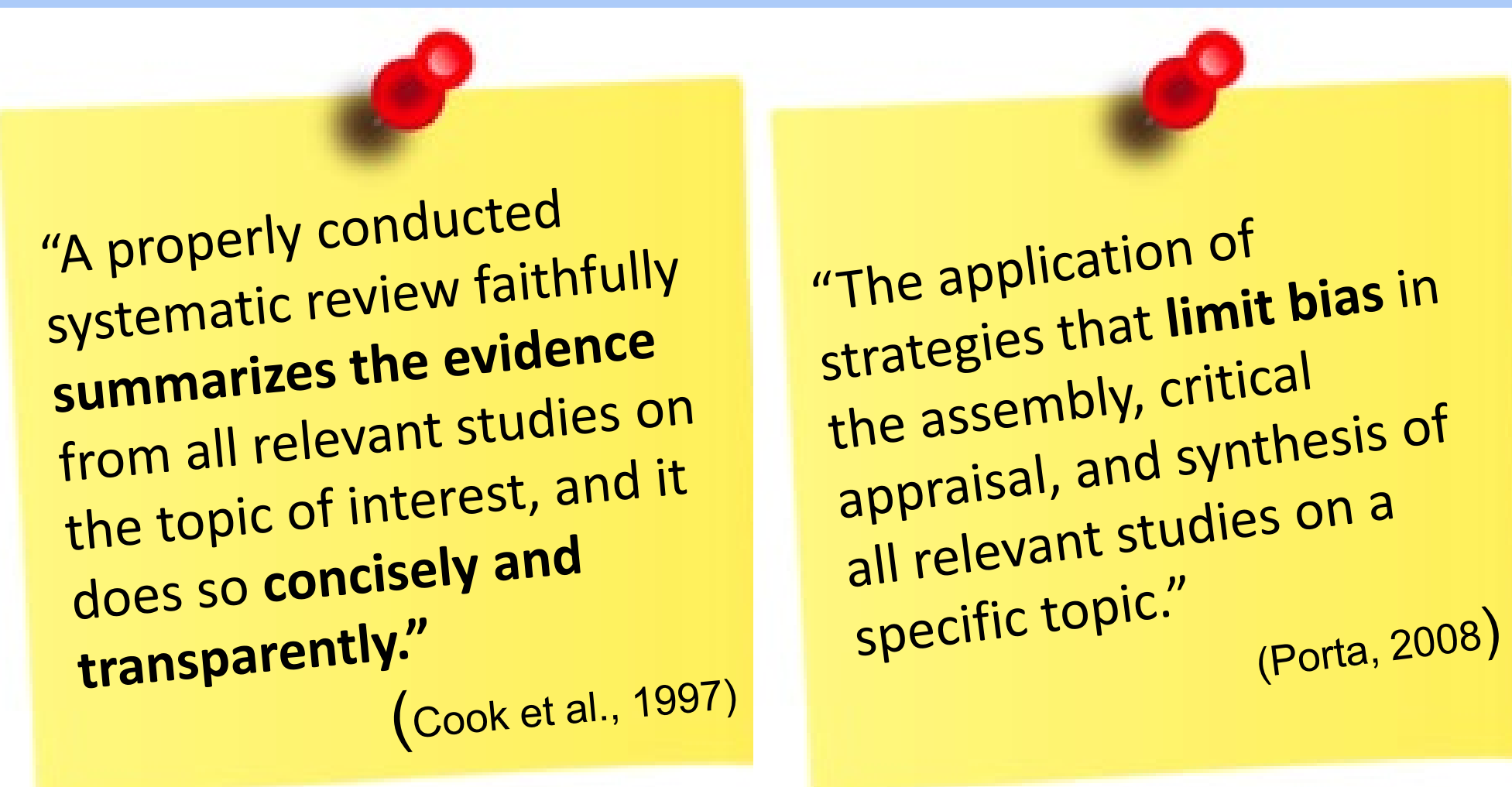
Sarah Over
Engineering Librarian
sover@umd.edu

Stephanie Ritchie
Agriculture and Natural Resources Librarian
sritchie@umd.edu

STEM Library
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

Priddy Library
The Universities at Shady Grove
Rockville, MD 20850

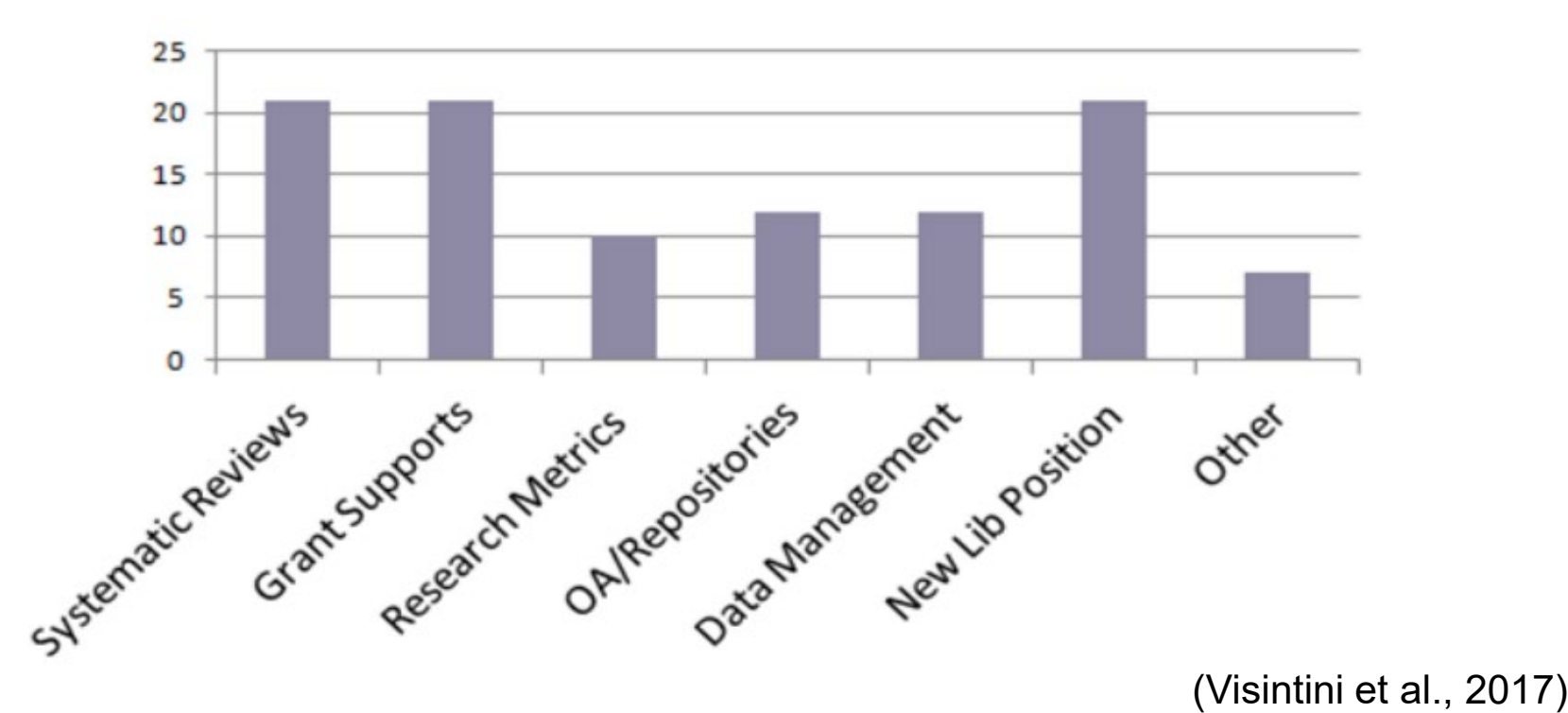
DEFINITION OF A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW



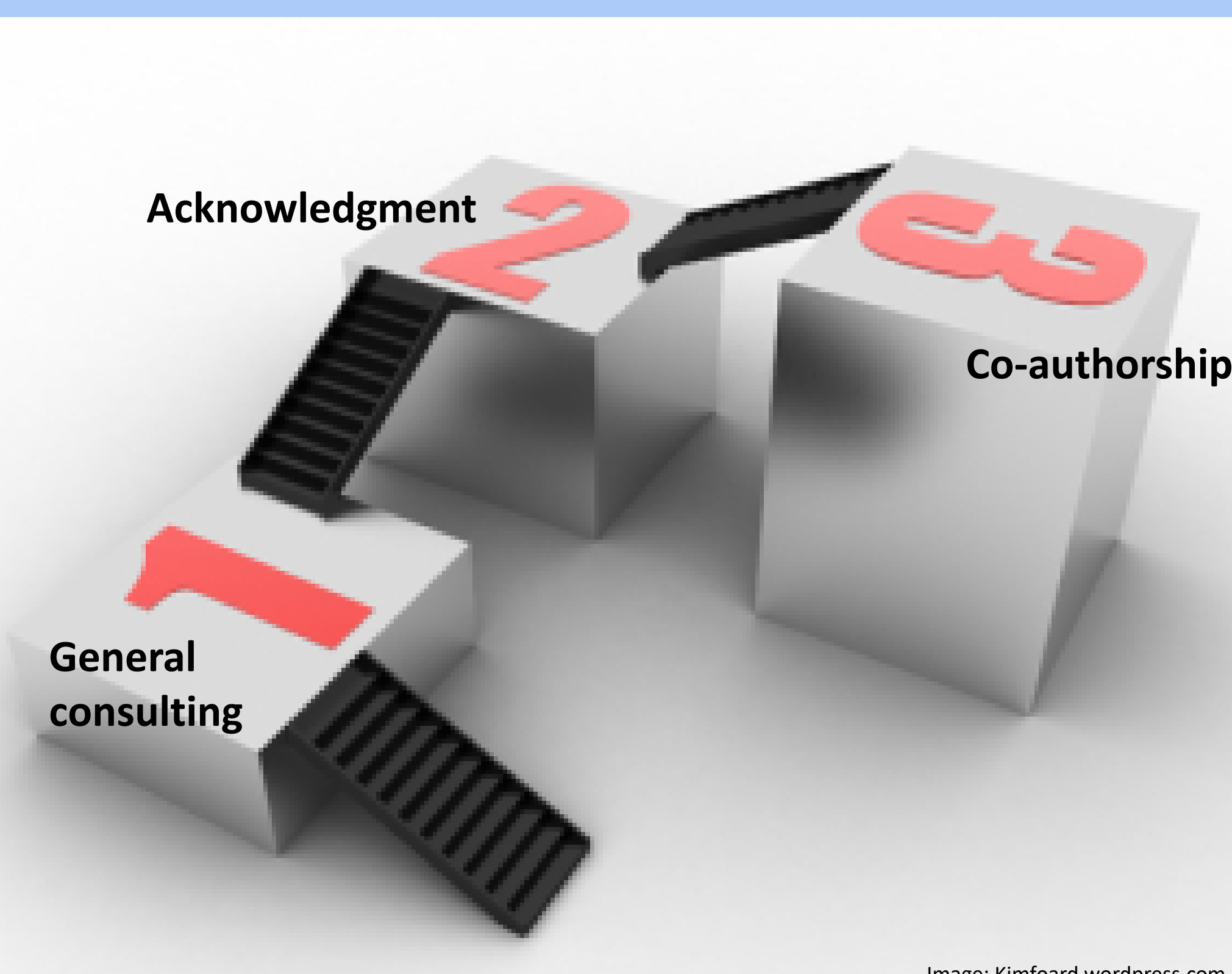
EMERGING TRENDS

Systematic reviews emerged back in 1904 in the medical field, developed slowly and then expanded quickly in the late 1990s, and have grown exponentially since 2000 (Lee et al., 2001; Gurevitch et al., 2018; Page et al., 2018). As research syntheses have grown, new services to support them have emerged in libraries. Systematic reviews along with grant support lead the list of new service types. Demand for synthesis of evidence has skyrocketed, moving beyond the health science disciplines, and librarians need to be prepared to meet this trend.

Results: Service Types

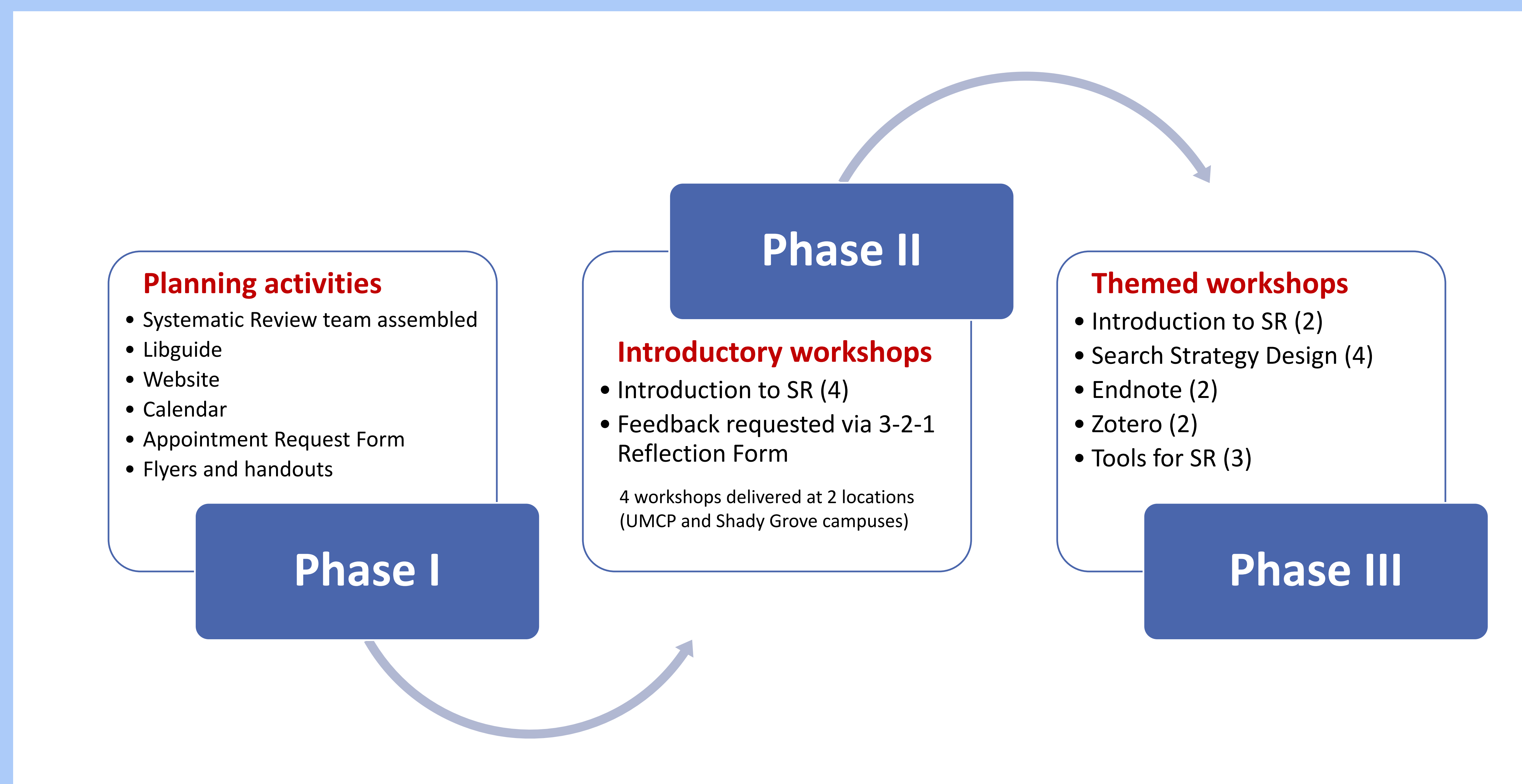


TIERED MODEL


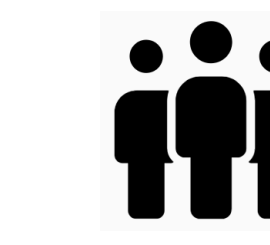


PHASES

OF THE SYSTEMATIC REVIEW SERVICES DEVELOPMENT



RESULTS

-  18 workshops in 2 locations from Sept. 2018 – April 2019
1 invitation from international researchers to deliver a webinar
-  124 attendees (graduates, faculty, undergraduates, librarians)
62% attendance from the registrants' pool of 200
-  3 co-authored peer-reviewed publications
4 joint projects underway
1 co-authored grant proposal
-  8 requests for a consultation via Wufoo form
12 research teams of faculty/students inquired by email

Images from Noun Project: Classroom by David · Work Group by Oksana Latysheva · Writing by Vectors Market · Consultation by Romzicon

NEXT STEPS

- Short term goal**
Develop an open access online course through UMD Canvas Commons
- Long term goal**
Explore opportunities to develop a course for credit

CONCLUSIONS

Systematic Review workshops series at UMD Libraries have been successful during the pilot phase. The success of this initiative was possible due to the partnership with the UMD Libraries Research Commons colleagues, as well as the commitment of librarians on the Systematic Review team. Benefits for librarians include not only learning about the systematic review process and tools and techniques involved with it, but also creating new relationships with faculty and students, and co-authoring publications and grants.

Designing online materials facilitated broader exposure of this service at an international level.

REFERENCES

- Cook, D. J., Mulrow, C. D., & Haynes, R. B. (1997). Systematic reviews: Synthesis of best evidence for clinical decisions. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 126(5), 376–380.
- Gurevitch, J., Koricheva, J., Nakagawa, S., & Stewart, G. (2018). Meta-analysis and the science of research synthesis. *Nature*, 555(7695), 175–182. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature25753>
- Lee, W. L., Bausell, R. B., & Berman, B. M. (2001). The growth of health-related meta-analyses published from 1980 to 2000. *Evaluation & the Health Professions*, 24(3), 327–335.
- Page, M. J., Shamseer, L., & Tricco, A. C. (2018). Registration of systematic reviews in PROSPERO: 30,000 records and counting. *Systematic Reviews*, 7(1), 32.
- Porta, M. S. (Ed.). (2008). *A dictionary of epidemiology*. (5th ed.). Oxford ; Oxford University Press.
- Visintini, S., Boutet, M., Helwig, M., & Manley, A. (2017, May 15). Research Support in Health Sciences Libraries: A Scoping Review. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3901ZT55>