

Library Connect Podcast: Aida Farha

This is a transcript of a Library Connect podcast

recorded in August 2008.

MS. AIDA FARHA: Okay, thank you for inviting me here today. My name is Aida Farha. I'm the information specialist at the Saab Medical Library, American University of Beirut, and this is located in Lebanon. I'm very much enthusiastic about teaching users how to look for information, and when I say "users," I especially mean the physicians. This is what I do most of the time at work, and I do it with pleasure and enthusiasm, because I believe that we, as medical librarians, we save lives, patient's lives, we save healthcare professional's time, and we save healthcare costs.

And many cases have happened to me personally that prove these situations. For example, I can tell you one instance that has happened some time ago. I was teaching physicians in a neighborhood country, and after eight months I received a phone call from one of the attendees and physician, and he was thanking me for saving his life. He said that before attending the session that I gave, he thought that he knew how to look for health or medical information, but after attending my session, he found out that actually he didn't know how to do that, and this is very common among physicians, I'm sure, all over the world.

Later, he got some type of disease, which is quite rare. So, he went to a specialist, another physician that specializes for that particular disease, and he couldn't treat him. So, he remembered the way that I have taught him how to look for medical information using evidence-based medicine tools, and he searched himself for the information, and that's how he saved his life, and he was just calling me to say, "Thank you, you have saved my life."

The thing that has happened is that when I teach physicians, I always think that at the end there is a patient that they are going to save. It could be me, some of my family, my friends, people around me, but I never thought that physicians, they do also become patients, and what I teach could save their lives too. Thank you very much. Thank you for Elsevier.