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Supporting Researchers - Back to the Future!

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Supporting Researchers – Back to the Future!

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CONCLUSION

Researchers are familiar with the academic librarians' competencies and define these as meaningful and useful in their scientific investigation process. Nevertheless, increased visibility of the academic librarians' competencies could bring us back and into a closer collaboration with researchers in their projects. This requires proactivity, self-confidence and personal communicative skills from the academic librarian in the contact and in continued professional involvement with researchers

Aim: To increase our understanding of researchers' need of customized support in their scientific investigation process

Objectives:

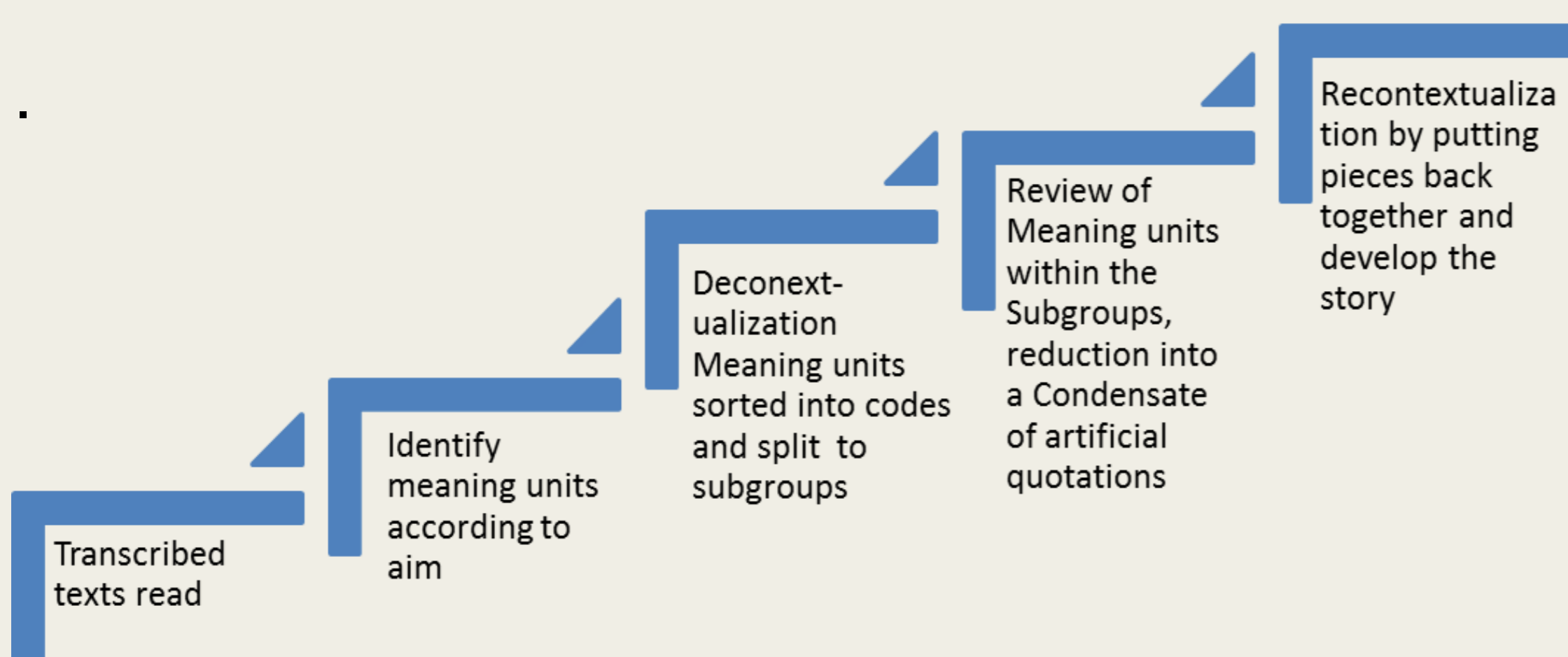
- Identify specific support needs
- Identify competencies skills and expertise required of the academic librarian – now and in the future

Method

Setting: The Faculty of Medicine, Lund University, A qualitative inductive approach by conducting semi-structured interviews with six senior researchers in medicine and health sciences. Systematic text condensation (STC) was applied for the analysis (3).

Flow of the analysis illustrated:

1. Transcribed texts read
2. Identify meaning units according to aim
3. De-contextualization - Meaning units sorted into codes and split to subgroups
4. Review of Meaning units within the Subgroups, reduction into a Condensate – artificial quotations with original terms applied by interviewees
5. Recontextualization – putting pieces back together and develop the story



Introduction

Traditionally the academic librarian has served as an information specialist working in close professional contact with the researcher in their scientific investigation. In the past decade the academic librarian has gradually become remote from the researchers (1). A recent study at the Lund University Libraries (2) concluded that research support is needed in close proximity to the researchers and discussions to be held on faculty level.

Findings

Researchers Support Needs:	Required Competencies of the Librarian:	Researchers' Preferred Ways of Communication with Librarians	Researchers Awareness of Librarians' Competencies
Improve own ability information retrieval and reference management	Pro-activity and self-confidence	Increased visibility facilitates contact	Support minded; knowledge in information retrieval and reference management
Just-in-time; personal and customized workshop	Communicative skills	Personal and continued	Previous experience in collaboration with Librarians
In the Grant application process	Deliver just-in-time	Proactive invitations to social formalized situations	In publishing strategies and Openaccess
Collaboration in research projects	Curiosity and creativity	Meetings and follow up by email	
Publishing strategies	Interest to learn and develop		

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