

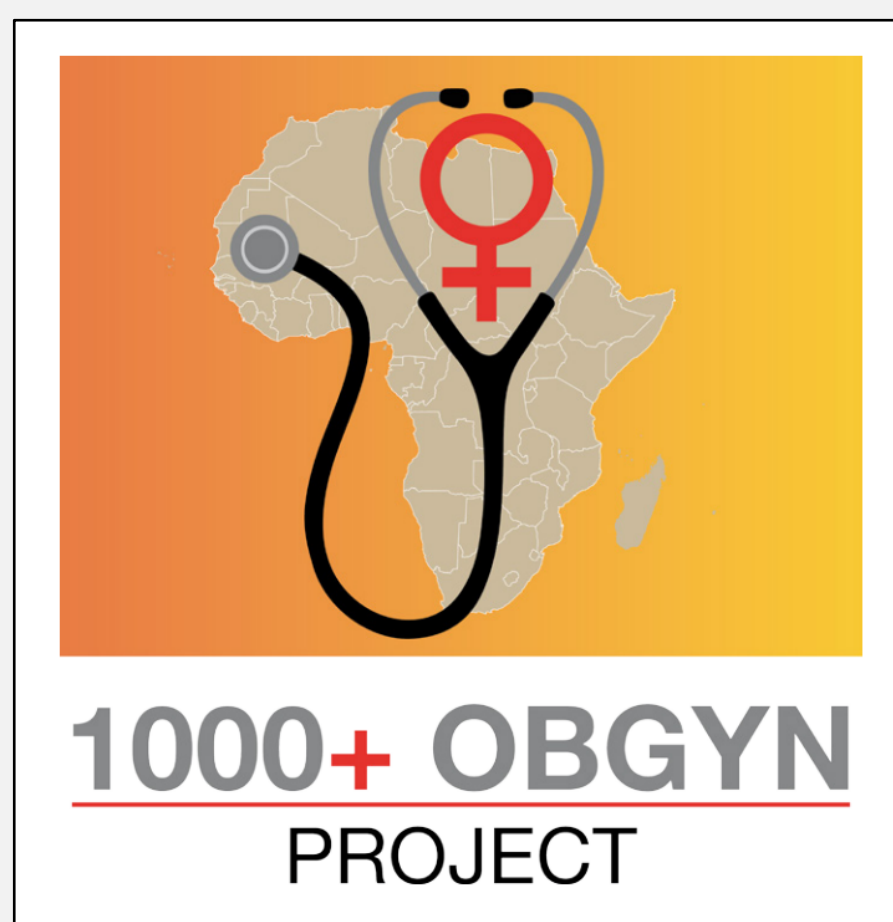
# Developing and deploying free, adaptable digital learning resources to enhance postgraduate curricula partnerships in sub-Saharan Africa

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## Background

The 1000+ OBGYNs in Africa project launched in 2012 with the goal of training 1,000 new residents in obstetrics and gynecology in sub-Saharan Africa by 2025. The project resulted in the creation of a network with 30+ institutions, a mix of African and U.S. universities and professional societies.



## Challenge

A qualitative analysis of the survey and interviews at the member meetings in 2012 and 2014 revealed that **access to affordable, relevant, and up to date research and instructional material** was a significant barrier to instructors and learners in OBGYN residency programs.

## Methods: Part 1

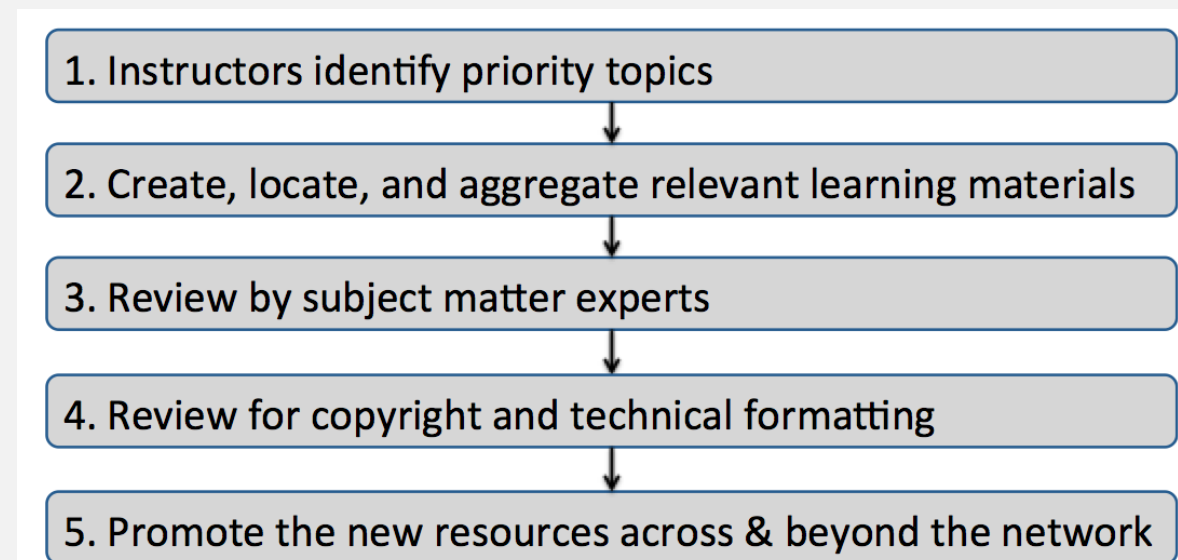
The 2012 meeting was recorded, transcribed, and formatted into formal proceedings.

At a 2014 meeting, members identified 14 “hot topics” or priority areas for the curriculum.

Of these topics, members selected one to create a full course. This course was created with original content and delivered in June 2014 as 1-week instructor-facilitated free online course restricted to network members only.

## Methods: Part 2

For the remaining 13 hot topics, a curriculum team of 4 OBGYN faculty and 3 information resources specialists identified key terms for each of the topics and selected 10-15 free websites to search for each topic. The sources searched were a mixture of professional associations identified by OBGYN faculty, Creative Commons-licensed health collections previously curated by the Open.Michigan Initiative, and open access databases previously curated by the Taubman Health Sciences Library. The team reviewed the search results for relevance, for audience fit, for free, public access, and for copyright permissions.



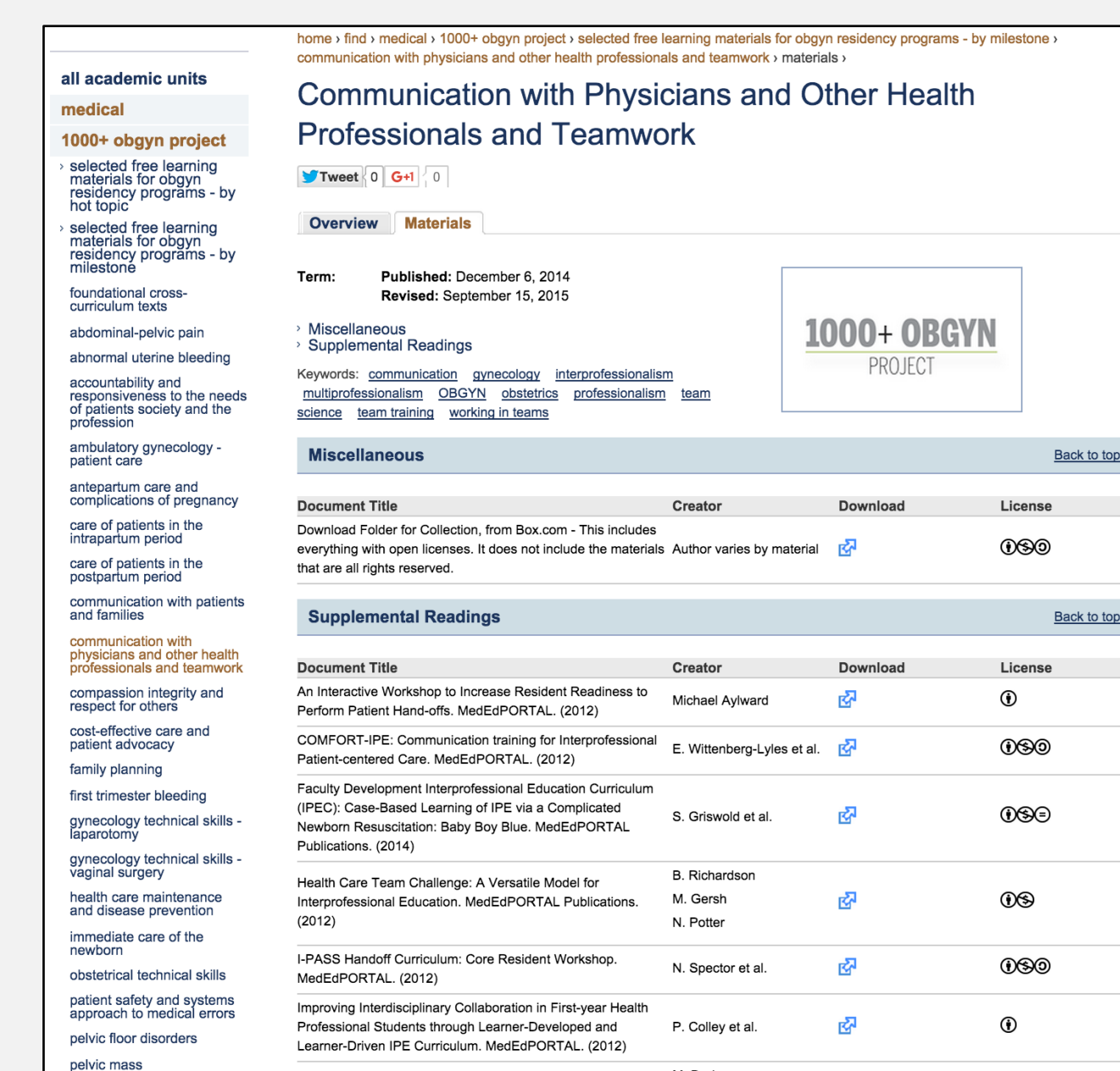
Following the completion of the hot topics, members requested additional materials aligned with common competencies across the varying curricula. The curriculum team selected the ACGME Milestones for OBGYN as the framework.

Due to Internet connectivity costs and unreliability, the member institutions in Africa requested offline access in parallel. The curriculum team partnered with the Global Library of Women's Medicine (GLOWM) to include all 4 collections in a special edition of GLOWM's offline compressed USB drives distributed through their Ambassador Program.

## Results

Four new collections have been created:

1. A book of conference proceedings from 2012
2. An online course
3. A collection of resources for 13 hot topics
4. A collection of resources for 25 milestones.



All materials are publicly available, free and licensed for students, teachers and practitioners to copy and modify to suit their curricular context within their institutions.

The collections have been shared via the Open.Michigan website. To date, the collection page has received 2507 unique pageviews, the book 115, the online course 149, the hot topics 249, and the milestones 1655. The proceedings book is also available for purchase for print on demand via Amazon.com, where it has sold 17 copies to consumers. From the online course, the collection of 15 videos (79 total minutes) has received 915 YouTube views to date.

The GLOWM compressed USB drives were distributed to 18 African institutions with 32GB total of digital content. These 4 new collections represented half the content.

## Key Lessons

1. We were able to effectively draw upon existing free and openly licensed educational resources from Michigan, Ghana, Ethiopia, and elsewhere and curate them for a learner audience of OBGYN residents.
2. Review by subject matter experts was essential to determine the quality, audience fit, and categorization.
3. Review by information resources specialists was essential for copyright permissions, for file organization, and for appropriate metadata for browsing and searching such a large collection.
4. Via strategic partnerships with established brands of Open.Michigan and GLOWM, we increased the visibility of, access to, use of the four collections, online and offline.

## Future Applications

A second book with the proceedings from 2014 is in progress. A third meeting for 1000+ OBGYNs network members is planned for October 2015. This meeting will be an opportunity to gather feedback on the existing collections. Discussions are in progress with new emerging maternal and reproductive health networks in Ethiopia and East Timor about adapting or adding to the collections to support their own training programs.