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The library at the point of care: Integrated resources and instruction in the third-year medical school curriculum

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One of the most pressing challenges clinicians face is effectively and appropriately utilizing online information resources at the point of care. The third year medical school curriculum is a prime place to teach tomorrow’s physicians to incorporate library resources into their workflow as they begin their clinical clerkship rotations. This poster is an overview of the ways librarians integrate instruction and online resources into third-year medical student clerkship experiences within a large academic health system. Methods include: hands-on instruction during pre-clerkship orientation, targeted hands-on instruction co-taught with clinical faculty during two different clerkship rotations, and utilization of the medical school’s online course management system to supply targeted point of care resources and relevant online instruction to designated clerkship rotations.

M3 Orientation
Orientation to PoC Resources

Taubman Health Sciences librarians have been involved in third year medical student orientation sessions for over a decade. Orientation to the wards takes place in early May, and marks a “tipping point” for students and their relationship to information resources. Students begin their clinical rotations and need rapid access to high quality information for medical decision making at the point of care. This two hour hands-on session is co-taught with a faculty physician and is arranged in a rapid-fire case-based format to simulate the clinical environment. Students are also briefly introduced to available mobile resources and the library’s mobile resources guide.

Internal Medicine Clerkship
Real-Case/Real-Time EBM

The third-year Internal Medicine Clerkship session requires students to submit a challenging clinical question they encountered recently during the rotation. The instructors review the student-submitted questions and identify four that best illustrate the tools and features of four major categories of resources: primary literature, systematic reviews, practice guidelines, and drug databases. For each of the four clinical questions selected, the students are directed to two resources and given five minutes to answer the question. The faculty instructor leads a discussion about the clinical significance of their findings. Finally, a librarian walks the students through each resource, again highlighting key features and functionalities.[1]

Pediatrics Clerkship
Systematic Reviews at the PoC

In contrast to the frenetic pace of the Internal Medicine Clerkship session, the third-year Pediatrics Clerkship session focuses less on finding and more on evaluating information and integrating that information into clinical practice. During the session, students are given a PICO question and asked to search for a relevant systematic review using PubMed’s Clinical Queries. Once a relevant review is identified, they are asked to use the DARE (Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects) review structure to evaluate it, and then report their conclusions to the class. This session is held during the 12-week Pediatrics rotation.[1]

Surgery Clerkship
Online Surgical Resources

In late 2011, an author (WT) attended a Clerkship director meeting to discuss how the library supports clerkship rotations. After the session the surgery clerkship director expressed interest in developing a website of supplemental readings for that rotation’s lecture content. The director and the surgery librarian (MPM) met to discuss E-Book content and website platforms. Ultimately deciding on a Libguide comprised of short E-Book chapters, review articles, and Dynamo entries. The Libguide was instituted as a pilot in September 2012 (http://guides.lib.umich.edu/M3SurgeryClerkship).

Current M3 Involvement

• 3 Curriculum-integrated information resources sessions
• LibGuide supplemental content
• CMS-integrated library page