BACKGROUND
Second-year medical students are required to take two electives during the fall term. Librarians at Taubman Medical Library submitted proposals to teach two electives, one on Information Management and one on Psychosocial Information. Both proposals were accepted and taught in Fall 2005.

OBJECTIVES
• To explore a holistic approach to information management
• To expose students to a wide range of information tools and resources not typically taught in required courses
• To increase library integration in the medical curriculum

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
Information Management for the Busy Clinician
This elective explored key areas of information management including selection of resources to find information quickly, expanding research skills with citation searching and additional health literature databases, advanced MEDLINE searching, and managing references with RefWorks. Students explored tools for keeping up with the literature including RSS and podcasts. Educational methods included lecture, hands-on computer exercises, group projects and presentations.

Psychosocial Information in the Clinical Setting
There are a wide range of online sources available to aid clinicians in finding quality psychosocial literature to support patient care. The medical school curriculum includes Longitudinal Cases requiring consideration of topics such as social support, patient anxiety, and psychological impact of chronic disease. This elective offered an introduction to psychosocial information resources such as PsycINFO, SocioFile, Web of Knowledge, and ERIC. Educational methods included lecture, hands-on computer exercises, group projects and presentations.

OUTCOMES
• Both electives were fully enrolled (23 students each)
• Positive course evaluations
• Student appreciation for skills taught
• Librarians demonstrated value as educators in the medical curriculum

FUTURE PLANS
• Offer electives in Fall 2006
• Incorporate student feedback to improve courses
• Explore innovative educational methods
• Encourage students to maintain an interest in medical informatics (i.e. lifelong learning)
• Use as a model for informatics instruction in other programs (e.g. GME, School of Nursing, College of Pharmacy)

For further information: dbradley@umich.edu