Searching the Pharmacology Literature
An Electronic Tutorial to Meet Curricular Objectives

Lorie Kloda
McGill University Life Sciences Library

Objectives
● To provide the student with the information and resources necessary to support self-directed learning.
● McGill University’s undergraduate MD program is undergoing changes to the curriculum. This past year, the library partnered with an instructional designer to replace a lecture with an online tutorial.

Method
● Participants: 201 medical and dental undergraduate students.
● Launched in the fall term during the pharmacology course to replace a lecture component of the information literacy program.
● Resides in medical school electronic curriculum and is also available freely through the library website.

Content
● Content was designed to assist the student in locating, retrieving, evaluating, and using information to complete a written assignment and for future research and practice.
● Links directly to resources (databases and websites) so students can complete assignments.

Results
● 31 / 201 students responded to online survey.
● Most spent < 30 minutes using the tutorial.
● Generated suggestions for improved content and usability.
● Correct answers for multiple choice question on midterm:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004 Lecture</th>
<th>2005 Tutorial</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>65%</td>
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<tr>
<td>137 / 184</td>
<td>131 / 201</td>
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Design
● Textual as well as visual (images and video) instructions.
● Internal navigation for self-directed learning.
● Screenshots of important steps in the search process.
● Screencasts demonstrating search strategies in bibliographic databases and electronic books.

Conclusion
● The tutorial may be an effective method of delivering content that meets some of the information literacy objectives for medical education.
● Improvements and the addition of more interactive components to the tutorial are being considered.
● The tutorial can easily be customized to be used with different user groups (e.g. nursing students, residents) both at McGill and at other institutions.

Tutorial available @ www.health.library.mcgill.ca/services/instruct/libmaterial.cfm