

Searching the Pharmacology Literature

An Electronic Tutorial to Meet Curricular Objectives

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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.

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.

 Watch the Video



Interactive Content



External Links



Internal Navigation

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:

2004 Lecture:	2005 Tutorial:
73%	65%
137 / 184	131 / 201

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