Saturday, September 21, Room B, 9.00

Web-Based Information Skills Tutorials for Evidence-Based Learning and Practice

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Goals and objectives: This presentation illustrates the outcomes of collaborative development of user-education for veterinary and medical students at the University of Edinburgh, with emphasis on interactive, web-based tutorials. We illustrate our own learning process in the development and ongoing revision of the user education programme, with a view to showing how the tutorials can be adapted for local requirements.

Significance of the work: In cooperation with course organisers, library staff have developed learning outcomes to fit in with new problem-based curricula in undergraduate medicine and veterinary medicine. Information skills are seen to be essential to sound research and clinical practice by teaching organisations, so work has been ongoing to integrate them into different stages of the curricula, and to avoid a 'tacked-on' or 'after-thought' approach. This presentation outlines the learning outcomes and describes how information skills are explicitly integrated with the rest of the undergraduate curricula.

Online interactive tutorials with assessment allow methods of measuring learning outcomes and receiving student comments not so easily achieved in earlier practicals with paper-based questions and answers. A particular benefit for students is the immediate feedback given on assessment questions. In the context of increasing student numbers and diminishing library budgets, tailor-made user-education is a luxury made more deliverable by electronic substitution. Library staff have collaborated with the Faculty Group's Learning Technology Section to create these online tutorials. This presentation includes a demonstration of an online tutorial and the database of results from assessment questions and student comments. In terms of teaching, these results are essential to the on-going improvement of information skills training.

Relevance to the Conference: The work described in this presentation is the product of co-operation on several levels: between library staff in different faculties; between library and teaching staff; between library and learning technology staff. It is a result of the development of Evidence-Based curricula. Primarily, it is a new model of user-education for the University of Edinburgh Library.