OVIDSP Social Network for the more efficient education and relevant information retrieval!

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Introduction: At the Semmelweis University in the "Library Informatics" course the usage of different databases and scientometrics are taught for university and PhD students and my module is presenting the usage of Wolters Kluwer Health - Ovid databases like Evidence-Based Medicine Reviews, International Pharmaceutical Abstracts, Ovid's MEDLINE, PsycINFO®, e-books and its anatomy software, the Primal Picture.

Aim: To create a web based social network where the teacher can share information about Ovid databases and services, where the students and the teacher can communicate interactively with each other in order to learn the usage of Ovid services and to help each other in the retrieval of relevant information via the Ovid system.

Method: In the 1.st semester the 2008/2009 academic year working jointly together with the students I map all the possible and requested appliances of networks like e.g. start pages, blogs, forum, gadgets, wiki, tagging, podcasting, mashup, RSS and also analyse top social network websites like Friends Reunited, Bebo and Facebook and some medical sites as well, to built our own network. I gather all "materials" which need to have for a useful education website: tutorials, FAQs, training online tests. The test period will be in January and February 2009 and from the 2nd semester the module of Ovid databases will be supported by this social network.

Results: I will be able to evaluate the effect of the OVIDSP social network on the enhancement of education using two methods. The objective method would be to compare the results of the usual online test at the end of the course with those of the previous ones. The subjective method will be a survey conducted among the students. Based on these results, a future plan can be to expand this network method for all modules of the "Library Informatics".