

MEDICAL INFORMATION SPECIALIST AS TEACHER TEACHING SEARCHING SKILLS

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(All the pictures are picked from Google picture gallery)

WORK OF INFORMATION SPECIALISTS HAS CHANGED

- Information user attitudes are going towards end-user literature searching
- In medical field the doctors have to apply the most recent information and knowledge to patient care. This demands excellent literature searching skills

• Information specialists are crucial agents in training and providing end-user a

• Do the library professionals have enough pedagogical skills?

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SKILLS AND PEDAGOGY

- Teaching library professionals should know at least some basics of learning theories and pedagogical models
- Is the teaching still based on the "good old" behavioristic theory: the focus learning is on the teacher?
- Current view of learning is based on constructivism, the teacher's role is only to act as a faciliator who encourages students to construct knowledge for themselves (learner-centered teaching)
- There are a lot of pedagogical models to realize effectively the learning process
- Do we library professionals know the theories and models?

THE AIM OF THE SURVEY

- The aim of this survey: to find out the amount, quality, and knowledge of training search skills mostly in Finnish medical education
- What kind of teaching methods are used?
- Do the library professionals have any pedagogical studies and what are the attitudes towards developing the pedagogical skills?
- After analysis of the results the ways of developing search skills training is discussed



THE METHODS IN THE SURVEY

- In the questionnaire there were nine open-ended questions with possibility to tell personal opinions and views
- There were altogether 14 respondents:
- The nine Finnish respondents represented all the medical university libraries in Finland (5 libraries)
- There were five randomly chosen foreign colleagues as well (Sweden, Norway, England and Belgium)
- ja Bergen), Englannista ja Belgiasta.

THE NINE QUESTIONS IN THE SURVEY-QUESTIONNAIRE

- 1. The amount of search skills training and the timing in medical studies?
- 2. Credits and searching skills studies?
- 3. The learning environments?
- 4. Teaching methods and pedagogical models used?
- 5. Integrating search skills training in the medical curriculum?
- 6. Information retrieval training to practicing doctors?
- 7. Proportion of search skills training in the work-time of information specialists?
- 8. The knowledge of pedagogy and pedagogical skills?
- 9. Attitude toward pedagogical education?

THE AMOUNT OF SEARCH SKILLS TRAINING AND THE CREDITS GAINED

- The amount of search skills teaching during medical studies varies from 7 to 10 hours in Finland
- In Swedish
 Karolinska Institutet
 the amount is almost
 one week
- The granted credits varied from 0,7 to 1,5 credit (ECTS) in basic medical education (One credit equals 27

- Information retrieval courses are usually offered at the beginning of medicine studies
- The trend toward distance learning courses is constantly increasing



TIMING THE SEARCH SKILLS TRAINING THE MEDICAL EDUCATION



- Search skills training should be offered gradually and repeatedly during medicine studies according to constructivist learning theory
- It would be ideal to integrate the training in substance —based medical education and in this way practice problem-based learning-theory
- Some reasons for "scattered" training:
 - -Motivation towards the search skills training is growing with approach of master's thesis
 - User interfaces and search filters are continously changing
- Web-based distance learning courses could be used to arrange gradual and decentralized training

SEARCH TRAINING FOR PRACTICING DOCTORS — IS THERE ANY?

- Life-long learning is necessary for practicinig doctors for giving up-to-date treatment that is based on evidence-based medicine
- Voluntary search skills courses are offered to dissertation writers and researches in Finland
- Unfortunately it seems that health center doctors are are almost excluded from the training
- Finnish Medical Society Duodecim has created a reliable and comprehensive health portal with high quality information sources for this purpose.



THE PEDAGOGICAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

- 15 to 70% of the work-time of the respondents goes to teaching work
- The respondents had very different backgrounds in pedagogical studies:
 - one had 35 granted credits in pedagogy studies
- - one had 20 credits in university pedagogy
- The rest of respondents had 1-4 days courses connected to pedagogical skills
- Studies in pedagogy and obligatory teaching practice should be included in the qualification of information specialist/librarian

KNOWLEDGE OF TEACHING THEORIES AND PEDAGOGICAL MODELS

- Some taught only by lecturing to large groups
- There seems to be a tendency towards principles of problem-based learning (PBL) and working in small groups
- There should be a transfer from behaviorism to constructivism; from teacher-focused teaching to student-focused teaching
- Students should actively take part in the learning process

ATTITUDE OF INFORMATION SPECIALIS TOWARD PEDAGOGICAL EDUCATION

- All but one of the respondents considered the pedagogical studies on practical level very important.
- The importance of pedagogical studies that can be directly applied to the teaching work was underlined
- A tailored course of teaching only for library professionals should be considered
- It was suggested that there should be a minimum requirement of the studies in pedagogy in teaching library professionals' qualification

EAHIL'S POSSIBLE ROLE IN DEVELOPI PEDAGOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Networking with teaching colleagues was considered important. According to constructivism understanding and learning happens when building knowledge together.
- Professional networking offers a possibility to bench-mark and reflect own professional competence
- A common teaching and presentation material learning center within EAHIL got unanimous support
- Creating common distance learning courses in professional networks got also support.

STUDIES IN PEDAGOGY INCREASE THE QUALITY OF SEARCH SKILLS TRAINING

- Courage to apply new creative pedagogical methods increases
- Teacher moves towards student-centered training
- Library professionals with excellent teaching skills are representative visiting organizations

 Patricia Russell
- o Presentation and pedagogical skills strengthen confidence of decision-makers and medical professionals in libraries, librarians and the necessity of their existence.

Teacher on Call

REFLECTION AND SUGGESTIONS (1

- There should be a minimum requirement pedagogical studies for every teaching information specialist for example 10-20 credits
- A short teaching practice should be obligatory. The feed-back from senior colleagues and students is valuable.
- Closer networking with colleagues is of great importance (master-apprentice learning and benchmarking possibility)
- Discussion groups in the social media a study circle connected to pedagogical topics (Tiina Heino had a presentation in Estoril on this kind of study circle in Helsinki University)

REFLECTION AND SUGGESTIONS(2)

- Networking over professional boundaries (medicine specialists, medical teachers, decision-makers) is important. It is easier to integrate search skills training within basic medical studies in pedagogically a more reasonable way.
- It is necessary to create a collegial network even on international level. It enables an easy way to follow the most recent trends of teaching methods
- EAHIL could start as soon as possible a circle around the pedagogical themes (discussion, literature, teaching material center)



QUALITY ASSURANCE OF ACTIVITIES STARTS FROM THE TEACHER HERSELF/HIMSELF

- Pedagogical skills can be improved:
 - by studying pedagogy and reading good pedagogical literature
 - by learning from the feedbacks from colleagues and students
 - by using time for continuous reflection on own teaching activities
 - by assembling a training portfolio
 - by writing a teaching diary
 - having an open mind and courage for applying new pedagogical models in own work



GOOD TEACHERS HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED:

- Good teachers are good learners
- They are enthusiastic and devoted to the subject they teach
- They understand larger entities of the subject to be taught, linkages and hierarchy of the theme they teach
- They do not only disseminate information but encourage studen to thinking and solving problems
- They set clear objectives and use suitable evaluation methods
- Student-centered teaching!



