

Improvement of the Practicing Veterinarian's Information Literacy by Netbased Education

Raisa Iivonen
Teodora Oker-Blom

19.9.2002 EAHIL, Köln

113

What makes a quality information literacy programme?

- Collaboration with institution/faculty
 - institutional mandate, commitment and structure
- Articulation with the curriculum
 - librarian deeply familiar with the curriculum
 - librarian understands scholarly information patterns
 - library's goals synchronised with educational goals of institute
- Pedagogy and information technology
 - librarian full partner in delivery of educational content

(1) Oberman, 2002

Veterinary Education in Finland

- College of Veterinary Medicine 1945-1995
- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Helsinki, 1995-

- 50 students/year
- 5 doctorates/year
- ca 8 specialists /year
- Continuing education (1500 veterinarians in Finland)

- New premises in Viikki Campus 2004
- More co-operation with the Faculties of Agriculture, Pharmacy and Biosciences of the University of Helsinki

(2) Oker-Blom & al. 2000

Strategy of the Faculty of Veterinary medicine

Responsible for

- basic and postgraduate education
- specialization programmes

Partly responsible for

- continuing education in cooperation with Länsi-Uusimaa Institute for Continuing Education, a unit of the Centre of Continuing Education at the University of Helsinki

Its library is responsible for instruction in information literacy preferably integrated in the education

The Veterinary Medicine Library in Finland

- founded 1892 by the Finnish Veterinary Association (FVA)
- donated 1945 to the College of Veterinary Medicine
- librarian and library premises 1962

- to be merged to Viikki Science Library in 2004

- direct services to veterinarians all over Finland (distance between Helsinki and e.g. Utsjoki in Lapland is 1000 km, practitioners work mostly alone)
- collections focused on veterinary medicine and food hygiene
- inter-library-lending (ILL) is very well developed in Finland
- instruction in information literacy

Information literacy instruction at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Basic education

- introduction to library services (1 year)
- use of library services (PBL literature reviews, 1 year)
- information retrieval (short thesis 4-6 year)
- information retrieval-drop in courses(students and teachers)

Postgraduate education and faculty

- information retrieval, selected resources (special groups)
- information retrieval - drop in courses (postgraduate students preparing thesis and teachers)

Teaching methods

- traditional class room and hands on teaching
- team-teaching: two librarians, librarian - faculty
- netbased courses; in cooperation with Viikki science library

(3) Oker-Blom, 1998

Information literacy for practicing veterinarians

- integration with courses organized by the Länsi-Uusimaa Institute for Continuing Education, a unit of the Centre of Continuing Education at the University of Helsinki
- user education courses organized together with Finnish Veterinary Association (day after Annual Finnish Veterinary Conference)
- courses organized specially for municipal veterinarians
- hands on instruction of veterinarian visiting the library

(2) Oker-Blom & al. 2000

Teaching methods

- Traditional classroom teaching
 - at the Faculty, at the premises of the course organiser
- Netbased courses

Why netbased information literacy instruction ?

New era:

- nearly every veterinarian has access to internet
- numerous electronic resources available (for free or licensed)
- supported by faculty and other partners of continuing education (economic support during the project phase)

Solution: The project “Improvement of the practising veterinarian’s information literacy by netbased education”

One portal

- that supports different groups of practising veterinarians
- gives a clear picture of available quality resources and teaching material
- gives efficient information searching possibilities

Netbased courses

- to support retrieval of information e.g. via the portal
- as part of the continuing education programme of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Continuing education programme for practicing veterinarians

- Organizers: the Länsi-Uusimaa Institute for Continuing Education, a unit of the Centre of Continuing Education at the University of Helsinki, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, the Veterinary Medicine Library
- Sponsors: the Food and Health Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Finland
- Topic: Herd health management
- Length and duration: 20 credits, combination of modules, 2 years

Project phases 1

Gathering of relevant information resources

- Cooperation with relevant producers of websites/information for veterinarians:
 - the Food and Health Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Finland
 - the National Veterinary and Food Institute
 - the National Food Agency
 - the Finnish Veterinary Association
- Analysis of the information needs of practising veterinarians:
 - administration, -production, -food industry (deep interviews)
- Collaboration with teachers of subject modules of the continuing education course

Design of a “one-stop-shop” portal

Project phases 2

Design of netbased courses

- obligatory introductory course in information literacy for “Herd health management” (February 2003)
- obligatory course in information literacy for the module “Good veterinary practice (GVP) and legislation” of Herd health management (September 2003)

Steps in netbased course design

- choice of the e-learning platform
- starting seminar in classroom and hands on –teaching
- net-based distant learning independently, supported by the library (email)
- closing seminar, feed-back and suggestions for further studies

Results and experiences

- Results of the analysis of information needs
- Comments on portal design
- Comments on netbased course design

Skills required by library personnel

- Familiarity with production of netbased courses and pedagogical methods
- Knowledge of web design and updating
- Knowledge of internet resources in the field
- Familiarity with the curriculum
- Full member of the planning and teaching team

Literature References:

(1) Oberman, Cerise. What the ACRL Institute for Information Literacy Best Practices Initiative tells us about the librarian as teacher. 68th IFLA Council and General Conference, August 18-24, 2002, Glasgow.

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/papers/082-119e.pdf>

(2) Oker-Blom, Teodora, Iivonen, Raisa & Suckcharoen, Sinikka. Electronic Animal Health Information: outreach services and continuing education for the practicing veterinarians' changing information needs. 8th International Congress on Medical Librarianship July 2nd - 5th, 2000, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London.

<http://www.vetmed.helsinki.fi/lib/eltdkpub/London2000.html>

(3) Oker-Blom, Teodora. Integration of Information Skills In Problem Based Curricula. 64th IFLA General Conference, August 16 – August 21, 1998, Amsterdam.

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla64/142-112e.htm>