

Parallel Sessions D
D1 – Information Skills Training: Getting Results

Saturday, September 21, Room B, 9.30

Problem Based User Education in the Medical Library: How Much for Whom and When?

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Library informatics has been part of the curriculum at the Medical and Health Science Centre of the University of Debrecen since 1993. The experiences of the past nine years have taught us how to adjust our courses in response to changes in technology and access methods as well as to our users' needs and backgrounds. The spread of use of evidence based medicine, past and future changes in the curriculum also have an influence on how much we teach to our users, when and how.

Courses consisting of 20 classes are regularly held for first year students in general medicine, dentistry and pharmacology. We also offer 20 and 8 class courses for future laboratory assistants (full time and part time students, respectively) and 6 class courses for 1st year students of the School of Public Health. The students attending these courses come with different backgrounds as regards to their computer skills, interests and age. Course modules introduce them to the following main topics: the Library and library use (traditional tools: textbooks, journals, reference books, etc., National Medical Bibliography, library Opacs); Biomedical information on the net (medical URLs, comparison and evaluation of medical megasites); Locally available databases (ADAM, Scientific American, Stedman's Medical Dictionary, Medline, Science Citation Index, Current Contents, full text electronic journals); Basics of information retrieval; the concept, methodology and sources/databases of evidence based medicine, Theoretical and practical aspects of writing a scientific paper.

Based on the above mentioned and other (technological, methodological, historical, etc.) factors, we offer flexible courses adapted to the users' needs within the given time frame.