The Role of Libraries in Global Health: Information Services that Support Global Health Research

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Minds Eye of Global Health

This...

Or this?
Reality of Global Health

Botswana

Guatemala
UPenn Partnerships

Botswana

Guatemala
Why the Library?

• Organize data
• Analyze data
• Make data accessible
• Technology experts/wizards

i.e. Find a needle in a haystack
Research Before You Go

• Global Health Portal

http://library.utsouthwestern.edu/portals/globalHealth.cfm
Important Resources

• Databases
  – PubMed, Medline (Ovid), PAIS International, Scopus, TRIP Database

• Data Sets & Stats
  – Global Atlas of Infectious Diseases
  – Global Health Data Exchange
  – Global Health Observatory
  – Measure DHS

• Global Health EJournals and Ebooks
  – Search the term Global Health in EJournals & Ebooks A-Z
Assessment & Evaluation

• Measuring Impact and Sustainability

• Library staff has 10 years experience w/A&E
  – Outcomes evaluations related to educational, research, and patient care activities
Evaluation of generic medical information accessed via mobile phones at the point of care in resource-limited settings


ABSTRACT
Objective Many mobile phone resources have been developed to increase access to health education in the developing world, yet few studies have compared these resources or quantified their performance in a resource-limited setting. This study aims to compare the performance of resident physicians in answering clinical scenarios using PubMed abstracts accessed via the PubMed for Handhelds (PubMed4Hh) website versus medical drug reference applications (Medical Apps) accessed via software on the mobile phone.

Methods A two-arm comparative study with crossover design was conducted. Subjects, who were resident physicians at the University of Botswana, completed eight scenarios, each with multi-part questions. The primary outcome was a grade for each question. The primary independent variable was the intervention arm and other independent variables included residency and question.

Results Within each question type there were significant differences in percentage correct between Medical Apps and PubMed4Hh for three of the six types of questions: drug-related, diagnosis/definisions, and treatment/management. Within each of these question types, Medical Apps had a higher percentage of fully correct responses than PubMed4Hh (83% vs 13%, 33% vs 12%, and 41% vs 13%, respectively). PubMed4Hh performed better for epidemiologic questions.

Conclusions While mobile access to primary literature remains important and serves an information niche, mobile applications with condensed content may be more appropriate for point-of-care information needs. Further research is required to examine the specific

Swift access to relevant updated information is a critical part of healthcare delivery. What types of information do clinicians need and how can they be addressed by mobile technology? Lancaster and Warner identified three general types of information needs: (1) background information on a topic; (2) information to ‘keep up’ with new advances in a given subject area; and (3) to help solve a certain problem or make a decision. Prior to the internet age, this information could be found using condensed pocket tests, accessing books and journals, or consultation with colleagues. However, in resource-limited settings, these avenues are often not available or are not well-stocked and specialist access is very limited. Theoretically, the advent of the internet should have democratized this information but, in reality, the internet has failed to close this information gap and has exacerbated the disparity, creating what has been referred to as the internal digital divide. The creation of this digital divide has been multifactorial in nature. Infrastructure is perhaps the most striking barrier as the price of computers and internet services remains prohibitively high in developing countries. Reliable incoming bandwidth is also an issue, and speech can vary within the same region. For example, Botswana's incoming bandwidth is 14 megabits, but only a few African countries have a better bandwidth than this. Its neighbor, South Africa, is reported to have about 80 times more bandwidth for data communications than Botswana. Lack of familiarity with computer technology and lack of
Portals – View All Subject Headings

Found 35 resources

- AAMC Publications
- AEAWeb Evaluation: RSS Feeds
- American Evaluation Association (AEA)
- Assessing Student Competence in Accredited Disciplines: Pioneering Approaches to Assessment in Higher Education, 2001 (eBooks on EBSCOhost) [Electronic Book]
- Baylor University SACS Review: Assessment & Planning Templates
- Building a Scholarship of Assessment, 2002 (eBooks on EBSCOhost) [Electronic Book]
- Computer-assisted Assessment in Higher Education, 1999 (eBooks on EBSCOhost) [Electronic Book]
- Continuing Education and Performance Improvement (AAMC)
- Effective Learning & Teaching in Medical, Dental, & Veterinary Education, 2003 (eBooks on EBSCOhost) [Electronic Book]
- Ensuring the Fairness of Licensing Tests (ETS Policy and Research Reports)
Funding

• Grants Portal on Library website
• SciVal Funding Database
  – Supports researchers and research administrators in the pre-award stage of the funding process.
  – Mary Ann Huslig
• Elsevier Foundation
  – Medical Library Association Librarians Without Borders
    • Train the Trainers
    • Grants and Scholarships
    • Bilateral Agreements
Research Support in the Field

• Full access to UTSW Library via EZProxy
• Full access to UTSW Librarians via
  – Live Chat (instant messenger)
  – Ask Us (email)
• As a Team Member
  – Organize data
  – Analyze data
  – Make data accessible
  – Utilize, Teach, Demonstrate on various technologies
Librarians in Action

Botswana

Guatemala

UT Southwestern Medical Center Library