

NRSA Postdoctoral Primary Care/Health Services Research Fellowship

RESEARCH FORUM SERIES

Core Curriculum Module A

Searching for Primary Care/Health Services Research Information and Resources

Part 1: Introduction to Scholarly Resources

Part 2: Dissecting MEDLINE: Tips for More Effective Searching

*Part 3: Introduction to World Wide Web Resources in Primary Care/
Health Services Research*

Part 4: Finding the Evidence

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I. Background

Explosive changes in information technology have redefined the concept of self-directed learning in the physician's lifelong educational process. In order for individuals to successfully meet the challenge of continuous learning, they must develop the necessary competencies.

Information literacy is one of the essential competencies required for achieving the aims of lifelong learning. This is best mastered in an integrated curriculum so that the basic principles of information seeking will be retained following the completion of the educational program. Using this foundation, participants in the proposed modules will be able to translate and adapt basic information seeking principles in order to take a more active role in their own learning process.

II. Aim

Drawing on competencies that participants learned during their residency or graduate education, a four-part workshop research forum series was developed to address information literacy skills as they related to primary care/health services research. At the conclusion of this module, research fellows will be able to:

- Locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to primary care and health services research
- Obtain and use information about their own population of patients or research studies and the larger population from which their patients or research studies are drawn
- Use information technology to manage information, access online medical information, and support their own education
- Make informed decisions about their research projects based on up-to-date scientific evidence
- Use information technology to support primary care and health services research.

III. Learning Objectives

Part 1: Introduction to Scholarly Resources

- To configure their web browser to access the UMDNJ proxy server
- To locate databases, journals, and forms on the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Library of the Health Sciences website
- Identify appropriate databases to answer clinical or research question
- Understand licensing issues as they pertain to electronic resources (simultaneous use, remote access, etc.)
- Find and print resources in the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Library of the Health Sciences
- Find electronic resources on the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Library of the Health Sciences electronic reference center desktop

Part 2: Dissecting MEDLINE: Tips for More Effective Searching

- Understand indexing principles
- Describe the features of the OVID interface
- Develop search strategies using MeSH subject headings or textwords to locate articles
- Apply OVID commands: explode, focus, limit, etc.

Part 3: Introduction to World Wide Web Resources in Primary Care/Health Services Research

- Review selected websites in the areas of public health and health services research

Part 4: Finding the Evidence

- Identify Evidence Based Health Care (EBHC) principles
- Understand the function and strengths of narrative and systematic review articles
- Develop search strategies to find the "best evidence" to answer your clinical question
- Limit Medline searches to evidence based medicine literature
- Search the Cochrane Database for reviews and protocols

IV. Teaching Method(s)

Four 1.5 hours workshops -- didactic lectures, practical demonstrations and on-line use of computers, and group discussion.

V. Content Outline

Part 1: Introduction to Scholarly Resources

Lecture and hands-on demonstration

Part 2: Dissecting MEDLINE: Tips for More Effective Searching

Hands-on demonstration

Part 3: Introduction to World Wide Web Resources in Primary Care/

Health Services Research

Powerpoint slides (see attached)

<http://www2.umdj.edu/rwjlbweb/Classes/pubhealth>

Part 4: Finding the Evidence

Powerpoint slides (see attached)

VI. Application to Actual Research Projects by Fellows

Each of the fellows had an opportunity to practice doing internet/world wide web searches for relevant articles and resources related to their primary care/health services research projects.

VII. References

Efthimiadis EN, Afifi M. "Population Groups: Indexing, Coverage, and Retrieval Effectiveness of Ethnically Related Health Care Issues in Health Sciences Databases," Bulletin of the Medical Library Association 1996; 84(3):386-396.

Haynes RB, Hayward RSA, Lomas J. "Bridges Between Health Care Research Evidence and Clinical Practice," Journal of the American Informatics Association 1995; 2(6):32-350.

Naylor CD, Guyatt GH. "Users' Guides to the Medical Literature. X. How to Use an Article Reporting Variations in the Outcomes of Health Services," Journal of the American Medical Association 1996; 275(7):554-558.

World Wide Web Resources - Primary Care/Health Services Research

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