

Nelson,

I hope you've had a productive trip and safe return. I wanted to update you on what I've been doing to followup our initial conversation.

Ken Opio and I met to discuss the information usage issue. The main barrier appears to be one of marketing/advertising of library services. We agreed that a proactive approach is needed. For example, in response to the short presentation Alison and I gave for Prof. Karamagi's class – and the organization of two workshops on the spot – we had 25 masters students filling the library computer lab mid-day this past Sunday!! Another workshop will be held this Saturday.

The success in attendance is quite easy to understand. When we talked with Prof Karamagi's class, we asked for a show of hands re how many knew about NLM's Medline, MedlinePlus, MedlinePlus African tutorials, ClinicalTrials.gov, Bookshelf, etc. When it was clear that knowledge of these resources was not widespread and also clear that this knowledge would be required to carry out their research, they quickly responded to our query as to what days would be best for workshops, settling on Saturdays and Sundays. We offered dates and times, and they showed hands for how many would come to each.

After the seminar, Prof K expressed interest in our coming to all of his classes with a similar presentation. Presumably, these presentations would generate more workshops.

I feel sure following this strategy could turn around the statistics of the McMaster report, confirmed in our unscientific survey of the masters students!

Next steps: Ken and I discussed a couple of ideas.

- 1) 5 minute presentation at a Faculty meeting with slides of resources sent to the Faculty as part of the minutes and posted on the website.
- 2) Meeting with the new Dean of Education and Dean of Research to plant the seed of including training in accessing information resources as part of the curriculum with assessment and evaluation of students post-training. Impact could be enormous.
- 3) Possibility of Faculty members getting training with credit for promotion purposes. (Maria Musoke could be helpful here?)

Bigger questions arise from these next steps: How can library services contribute to the development of education in the departments? How can the university best lead in the field of management of information that could affect the whole country? How can IT better support COBES' impact on practice and health care? How can research being carried out locally be shared with a wider audience – through publication in AHS, for example, or through other electronic platforms?

We talked about how important it was for students to understand the entire information cycle – from gathering information and data on the research question to proposal development to implementation, writing and reporting, and finally presentation and publication.

After talking with Ken, I met with Alison. As she will be leaving on the 25th for her posting in Sweden thru Dec 15, she suggested that Ken and I try to get on the agenda of the next Faculty Meeting and that Sarah Mbaga (who is being loaned to Albert Cook by Maria Musoke) be in charge of follow-up until Alison's return.

I'll look forward to hearing your thoughts.

All best, Julia