

A REPORT ON INFORMATION LITERACY TRAINING SESSIONS BY ALBERT COOK LIBRARY FEBRUARY 2008

Introduction

The session was conducted for staff and researchers from Makerere University, The John Hopkins University (MUJHU) by Ms. Alison Kinengyere, Ms. Sara Mbaga and Ms. Julia Royall. Ms. Julia Royall had preliminary discussions with Dr. Laura Guay, Mr. Henry Tumwijukye, Mr. Isaac Kyeyune at MUJHU and briefed them about the several e-resources we have in the library. The Training Coordinator Mr. Isaac Kyeyune wrote a letter requesting the Library to train their research investigators from different research institutions across the Faculty of Medicine. The session was conducted on Saturday 23rd February 2008. However on Tuesday 12th February 2008 the IT Manager from MUJHU was trained by Ms. Sara Mbaga and on Friday 14th March 2008 a Lecturer from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology was trained by Ms. Sara Mbaga.

Duration of the session

The duration of the session was 4 hours from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. This was an introduction to some of the resources and time was not enough to cover all the resources in detail.

The duration of 12th February was 2 hours from 9.00 am to 11.00 am.

The duration of 14th March was 2 hours from 8.30 am to 10.30 am.

Participation

MU-JHU staff and researchers from different Research Institutions across the Faculty of Medicine e.g. MUJHU, MU-CWRU, JCRC, IDI, IDC, CEU, Epidemiology, Anatomy, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics/Gynecology , Dean's Office and Nsambya hospital.

The resource persons were assisted by Mr. Kenneth Osiapil.

Content:

The staff and researchers were introduced to searching specific databases. The following databases were covered:

- HINARI and all resources accessed through HINARI e.g. – covered by Sara.
- Pub Med and all NLM resources e.g. MEDLINE, Medline Plus, Clinical Trials, e-bookshelf, Surgery videos - Covered by Julia and Sara.
- OVID and all resources accessed through Ovid, e.g. books@ovid, journals@ovid, Medline@ovid – covered by Alison
- ELIN – covered by Alison

The following databases were not covered because of limited time:

- The Cochrane Library
- POPLINE
- Blackwell
- Accessmedicine

Evaluation:

There were 34 participants in total, 32 filled the evaluation forms and the 2 left earlier. Four topics were presented where of each topic an evaluation was made on overall presentation, duration of the session, format of presentation and usefulness of the content.

Presentation of Results:

Topic 1: HINARI: Overall presentation, 12 indicated excellent and 19 said it was very good while 5 rated it as good; Duration of the session, 22 indicated that it was adequate, 11 indicated that it was short and 3 said that it was long; Format of the presentation, 9 indicated it was excellent, 18 indicated it was very good and 8 indicated it was good; The usefulness of the contents, 22 indicated it was very useful, 8 rated it as useful and 2 said that the content need improvement.

Topic 2: MEDLINE/PUBMED: Overall presentation, 10 indicated excellent, 18 indicated very good, 9 rated it as good; Duration of the session, 17 indicated it was adequate, 15 indicated that it was short, 3 rated it as too short; Format of presentation, 8 indicated excellent, 15 rated it as very good, while 10 said it was good; Usefulness of the content; 21 indicated that it was very useful, and 11 indicated it was useful.

Topic 3: OVID: Overall presentation, 13 indicated excellent, 14 indicated that it was very good, and 7 rated it as good; Duration of the session, 20 indicated that it was adequate, 12 indicated that it was short, while 1 said that it was too long; Format of presentation, 14 indicated that it was excellent, while 9 indicated that it was very good; 1 rated it as good. Usefulness of the content; 22 indicated that it was very useful, and 9 indicated that it was useful.

Topic 4: ELIN: Overall presentation, 14 indicated that it was excellent, 16 indicated that it was very good, and 2 said that it was good; Duration of the session, 22 indicated that it was adequate, 8 indicated that it was short while 1 said it was too short; Format of presentation, 13 indicated that it was excellent, 13 indicated it was very good and 5 said it was good; Usefulness of the content, 22 indicated it was very useful, 7 said that it was useful while 1 said the content needs improvement.

Below are the comments made by the participants after the training session.

Importance of the training:

- Valuable knowledge on accessing e-resources.
- Most of the search engines were new except PubMed.
- Different ways one can get articles quickly on line.
- It was very informative. Access to information has been a problem.
- Getting sensitized about what can be offered.
- How to access and get information from various data sources.
- It has made it already easy for me to access information.
- E-books on health education.
- Lots of websites.
- Learnt how to get medical resources without wasting time.

- Learnt that there is a lot of information that can be downloaded from medical websites at no cost.
- Accessing journals and textbooks on line.
- Learnt to search for literature in a fast and specific way.
- Honestly everything was new to me and very useful, it will definitely help me get access to lots of information that I need in my career.
- Online health information training has been new to me and I have found it very useful.

Difficult areas to understand:

- Most were well presented and straight forward.
- Everything was clear.
- Areas of training were good but too little time.
- Easy to understand but a little time needed.
- ELIN – cannot get the articles onto my collection.
- Training was good but because of time it was hard to keep with some areas.
- Requesting for articles from ELIN.
- Facilitators ensured that we understood everything step by step therefore was able to grasp everything.
- Some of the sessions presented were too fast and not all had computers.

Areas of training that need improvement:

- All are good.
- Excellent training.
- Overall training is good but it is too much to go through all the databases within such a short time.
- More training on all areas.
- Smaller classes and more computers.
- May be numbers can be reduced so that more people have access to computers.
- Timing was rather short so can schedule into two sessions.
- Demonstration time should be made longer.
- Speed of the computers because of limited time for each session.
- Organizing data downloaded into research references.
- Should have more computers or limit the number of participants to the number of computers.

How to pass on the knowledge gained:

- Peer training.
- Training others in rural centers.
- Hold training on site to fellow lecturers and students.
- Encourage other members to come for this training or work with me.
- MU-JHU will hold workshops for other staff.
- Guiding colleagues through the whole process of resource finding.
- Organize for CMEs.
- Email communication with others/printing and passing on the documents.
- One to one demonstration.

- To the people that I supervise, I will help them access information that they need for grant writing purposes.
- Arrange for a class.
- I can always look at clinical trials and their results and pass on the information accordingly.
- Offer user education to library users.
- Teaching the doctors who request me to search literature for them.
- Teach one or two nurses at a time.

Comments/Suggestions:

- Very useful and timely training
- More time is required especially if it is to be done on small groups with more computers e.g. at MU-JHU and JCRC.
- Good training should be encouraged and continue periodically.
- This training is very useful especially to the growing body of researchers around Makerere University.
- Valuable training.
- Need to target postgraduate students in their first year.
- Time was short otherwise excellent and very useful.
- Training has been timely and hope it has benefited many like it has benefited me.
- Regular trainings and updates in managing an electronic database
- Thank us so much this will definitely change my life thanks.
- If the training can be implemented at MU-JHU, really needed especially in research settings.
- If possible get us copies of the presentation/ give hand outs so as to prevent missing vital steps and information.
- Thank you very much for the workshop as useful as this one.
- Would be great to help us access these databases.
- Thanks for the great job.
- Training has been very useful you should take us through another session.
- Each participant needs a desk/lap top for hands on.
- Can we get access expanded to upcountry areas?
- Good work keep it up.

Conclusion:

The results above imply that the training was well conducted and appreciated by the participants as no one showed poor or very poor indicators.

Recommendations:

- More time is needed for hands on sessions.
- Smaller groups are recommended.
- More computers so that each participant can get a chance for hands on.
- One-on-one sessions should be conducted on appointment.
- Information literacy sessions to be conducted in upcountry areas