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Faculty help reduce NM’s information-access disparities

HSLIC faculty are helping reduce disparities in information access throughout New Mexico by identifying the point-of-care information resources that best serve health-care providers’ needs.

At a January retreat, HSLIC faculty agreed to conduct research on disparities in information access throughout New Mexico and to write a white paper based on the findings as one part of HSLIC’s contribution to HSC’s Vision 2020 project. Vision 2020 creates the first academic health center strategic plan to focus on improving health and health equity statewide as a measure of an institution’s success.

HSLIC researchers expect to find huge disparities in health information access across the state. Rural areas are especially thought to suffer from a dearth of authoritative resources that can be used to answer clinical questions or to support patient education.

A review of the literature on the subject suggests that providers are often too busy to conduct exhaustive research on the questions that arise from seeing a steady stream of patients. These providers need pre-digested information that is reliable, easy-to-use and available for reference at the point of care.

To determine these providers’ health-information needs, HSLIC faculty will determine which resources they find most useful.

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Holly Shipp Buchanan, EdD, MLn, MBA, FMLA, AHIP
CIO, Administration and Academic Systems
Executive Director, HSLIC
Professor, School of Medicine
We will enroll providers who are willing to participate in a study and train them in the use of various point-of-care information resources. After the providers have become familiar with the resources, HSLIC faculty will survey them to determine their satisfaction with the resources. The findings will form the basis of a white paper that will outline the steps needed to reduce information disparities through the equitable distribution of appropriate resources to all providers across the state.

“Other states have succeeded in providing essential information resources to all providers practicing within their boundaries,” said HSLIC librarian Brian Bunnett. “We will use our white paper as the basis for lobbying for such an outcome at the state legislature, at the state medical society and with funding agencies.”

HSLIC librarians well-qualified to conduct systematic reviews

Systematic reviews have become the standard in health-care research, and high-quality reviews can be conducted most effectively by medical librarians who have strong expertise in searches. HSLIC’s eight faculty librarians collectively have 168 years of experience searching databases.

A systematic review is a document that provides a comprehensive review of all relevant studies on a particular clinical or health-related topic or question.

“Systematic reviews are very important to health-care practitioners, who need to keep abreast of the medical literature and make informed decisions,” notes visiting professor and special projects librarian Gale Hannigan. “Searches for systematic reviews need to be constructed to maximize recall and to deal effectively with a number of potentially biasing factors.”

HSLIC librarians have served on HSC systematic review teams, helping specify research questions, searching multiple databases, organizing results in EndNote or RefWorks and writing the search methodology section for the resulting publications.

For more information about systematic reviews, contact your Envoy librarian or check out the Subject Guide on Systematic Reviews at http://libguides.health.unm.edu/sr.

41 take disaster-information class

HSLIC faculty librarians Brian Bunnett and Dick Carr taught four class sessions in February to a total of 41 attendees at the New Mexico Medical Reserve Corps’ Annual Disaster Volunteer Training Summit. Attendees represented a cross-section of Medical Reserve Corp personnel.

The class, which covered disaster-information resources provided by the National Library of Medicine (NLM), is a component of an NLM grant awarded to Bunnett, Carr and Principal Investigator Laura Banks, Director of the UNM Center for Disaster Medicine. The grant is intended to improve awareness of NLM’s disaster-information resources.

"These volunteers often work in hazardous situations," Bunnett said. "This class helps them find pertinent, authoritative and current information they can draw upon, when and where they need it."

Dick Carr teaches Medical Reserve Core personnel about resources provided by the NLM Disaster Information Management Research Center.
KOB Health Fair attracts 7,255 visitors

Thousands of consumers sought free health-care information, health screenings and flu shots at New Mexico’s largest and most comprehensive health fair, the KOB Health Fair, in January. The community health fair was sponsored by UNM Hospitals and KOB-TV, Albuquerque’s NBC affiliate. HSLIC was one of more than 200 organizations that set up booths at the event.

According to Misty Salaz, UNM Hospitals’ Community Relations Specialist, 7,255 people attended the weekend health fair. HSLIC faculty librarians Pat Bradley, Sarah Morley, Brian Bunnett and Jason Bengston talked with a steady stream of visitors about health information resources over the course of two days.

Bradley said the HSLIC team pointed people to high-quality, free resources. Using a laptop computer, they showed people how to look up information and watch videos about treatments and drugs at www.medlineplus.gov, which is the National Library of Medicine's consumer health information resource.

The librarians gave out copies of NIH MedlinePlus magazine, MedlinePlus brochures and bookmarks, HSLIC pens, and business-card-sized personal medical records on which consumers can record the medications they are taking and their blood pressure.

The event provides a valuable outreach opportunity, Bradley said. “Participating in events like this allows us to find out how what we do here at HSLIC matters to people who probably will not come into the library,” Bradley said.

Bradley plans to participate in several school health-education events in April.

If you have questions about HSLIC’s Native and Distance Services, please contact Bradley at (505) 272-2311 or send her an email at PBradley@salud.unm.edu.

Joining Hands exhibit coming to UNM’s Domenici Center

A new traveling exhibit, “Joining Hands,” is coming to UNM’s Domenici Center for Health Sciences Education this April and May. The exhibit was developed by Albuquerque’s Alvarado Gardens Neighborhood and has been on display at the Rio Grande Nature Center and the Roundhouse in Santa Fe.

The exhibit showcases two series of photographs—one of the hands of people living in Albuquerque’s Alvarado Gardens neighborhood and another of neighbors’ hands holding items they value. The photographs demonstrate people’s life choices and their values. Some are whimsical, while others are serious.

The exhibit was developed by Kathy Chilton, a member of the Alvarado Gardens neighborhood, and was funded by the Bernalillo County Neighborhood Outreach Grant program. It will be on display at UNM from Monday, April 23, through Thursday, May 31, in the main lobby of the Domenici Center from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. For more information, please contact Laura Hall at ljhall@salud.unm.edu or (505) 272-6518.
Ribbon-cutting ceremony inaugurates new, single Service Point desk

On January 30, Dr. John Trotter cut a ribbon to inaugurate HSLIC’s new single Service Point desk. Dr. Trotter is the Vice Chancellor for HSC Academic Affairs. Dr. Holly Buchanan, HSLIC Executive Director, accompanied Dr. Trotter.

“The new Service Point, which combines support for technology as well as library services, is our new single service center where all of our enhancements to customer service can come together on the main floor of HSLIC,” Dr. Buchanan said. “We hope this improves the customer experience that users have in interacting with us about a wide range of services.”

As we reported in the July/August 2011 issue of *adobe medicus*, HSLIC established a single Service Point desk to meet HSLIC’s customer service strategic plan goal. The Service Point desk combines the staff expertise of the Information Desk and the Help Desk. These staff members have been cross-training to broaden their knowledge about HSLIC’s library and information technology services.

The Service Point provides all services previously available at two separate desks. Users can receive circulation and basic reference assistance, drop off and pick up desktop computers and laptops to be reimaged, have their NetID accounts reset and reserve classrooms or meeting rooms in the Domenici Center for Health Sciences Education. The Service Point staff members refer more extensive questions to appropriate HSLIC staff and faculty.

The Help Desk and adjoining staff offices were remodeled during the fall semester, and the Information Desk was demolished.

Space: HSLIC’s continuous frontier

During the Jan. 30 ribbon-cutting ceremony, we polled attendees to ask how they would like to see the library’s main floor altered to take advantage of space created by the service-desk consolidation.

Of the 587 votes we received from HSC students, faculty and staff:

- 45% favored lounge furniture.
- 41% favored collaborative computer furniture for use by study groups.
- 14% favored stand-up email/computer kiosks.

Library staff members are writing a proposal to determine how HSLIC can best accommodate these suggestions.

“Our intent is to maintain the current number of public computers, but with some alterations in the arrangement of the space available,” said HSLIC librarian Dick Carr.
HSLIC faculty members publish and present papers

Holly Buchanan, EdD, MLN, MBA, presented an invited paper discussing the need for health sciences libraries to undertake strategic planning for e-Science at the annual meeting of the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) that took place at the 2011 meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges in Denver.¹

Jon Eldredge, PhD, Sarah Morley, MLS, Ingrid Hendrix, MILS, Richard Carr, MLS, and Jason Bengtson, MLIS, published an article in *Medical Reference Services Quarterly* on the methods and observations used by the HSLIC Curriculum Committee to create a compendium of library and informatics skills competencies mapped to relative competencies across all UNM HSC academic degree programs.² The group posted the 32-page compendium on LoboVault, so it is available for review.

Jon Eldredge, PhD, presented at the Generalists in Medical Education conference that overlapped with the Association of American Medical Colleges Annual Meeting in Denver in November 2011.³ His topic was the emerging possibilities of medical school faculty members publishing in open-access textbooks. Also, at the 2011 UNM Mentoring Conference, Dr. Eldredge shared his findings in a research paper on the unique forms of mentoring UNM medical students on their medical student research papers.⁴

Sarah Morley, MLS, along with faculty from the UNM Departments of Neurosurgery and Emergency Medicine, co-wrote a systematic review published in the February edition of the *Emergency Medicine Journal*.⁵ This work concluded that routine follow-up CT scans rarely alter treatment for patients with complicated mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) unless the scans were ordered because of neurological decline.

**Moving in/moving up**

**John Padilla joins technical-support team**

In March, John Padilla joined HSLIC full-time as a User Support Analyst, Tier 2. He began working for HSLIC part-time in October. He will be maintaining users’ desktops and ensuring that HSLIC employees have access to the third-party applications they need. Originally from Las Vegas, New Mexico, John earned an associate degree in computer networking systems from ITT Technical Institute in Albuquerque.

Previously, John worked at Xilinx, a semi-conductor testing site in Albuquerque, providing desktop support, network security and maintenance. He also provided field-service support for Presbyterian Hospital and worked for a Kirtland Air Force Base contractor, providing desktop-support services and migrating users from Windows XP to Windows 7.

**Libbye Morris to write promotional materials and build donor relationships**

In January, Libbye Morris joined HSLIC as a part-time (.5 FTE) Program Specialist. In this new position, Libbye is responsible for development and donor relations, event planning and writing materials that promote HSLIC within the UNM community, throughout New Mexico and nationally.

Libbye is from Fort Sumner, New Mexico. She has a bachelor’s degree in journalism from New Mexico State University and a master’s degree in journalism from Louisiana State University. She has been a freelance writer and editor for many years and has worked for public- and private-sector organizations in the Washington, D.C., area; in Raleigh–Durham–Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and in Austin, Texas.

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**HSLIC Runs VisualDx Trial**

HSLIC is running a trial of VisualDx, a medical image database of dermatologic, infectious and drug-induced diseases, through May 1, 2012. During the trial, VisualDx is available only on the HSC campus. You can access the database at [www.visualdx.com](http://www.visualdx.com).

VisualDx is an electronic resource for desktop and mobile devices that combines the power of a comprehensive medical image library with concise specialist-developed clinical information. The database provides access to more than 20,000 medical images detailing variation in age, stage and skin type. It also reviews more than 1,000 visually presenting conditions and presents clinical information on complex areas of medicine such as dermatologic, infectious and drug-induced diseases. Once you’ve had a chance to access the database, please send your feedback to Laura Hall at ljhall@salud.unm.edu.
Eldredge participates in eScience symposium

Jon Eldredge, PhD, MLS, an Associate Professor in the UNM School of Medicine, participated in an eScience symposium in Houston in February. Dr. Eldredge received a grant to attend the symposium from its sponsor, the South Central Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine.

“HSLIC faculty members are seeking the best approaches for pursuing meaningful collaboration with HSC researchers,” Dr. Eldredge said. “HSLIC faculty members possess many skills and digital resources that are potentially valuable to HSC researchers. This symposium provided some insight into how we can make HSLIC involvement most cost-effective while remaining respectful of HSC researchers’ own interests.”

For more information about what Dr. Eldredge learned at the symposium, please contact him at jeldredge@salud.unm.edu or (505) 272-0654.

Kroth attends curriculum conference

Philip Kroth, MD, MS, Director of Biomedical Informatics Research, Training and Scholarship, attended the Student Research into the Medical School Curriculum conference hosted by the New York Academy of Sciences in New York City.

Dr. Kroth is co-chair of the UNM School of Medicine’s Medical Student Research Committee. His participation in the conference was funded by Dr. Craig Timm, Associate Dean for the UNM School of Medicine’s Undergraduate Medical Education Office.

To find out more about the conference, please contact Dr. Kroth at pkroth@salud.unm.edu or (505) 272-6937.
UpToDate now available off-campus

One of the campus’s most popular library resources, UpToDate, is now available on- and off-campus. This evidence-based database helps clinicians make the best decisions for their patients at the point of care. UpToDate’s content is written by 4,800 physicians with the assistance of 45 in-house physician editors. The database currently has 9,000 topics and covers 19 specialties. Two more specialties, dermatology and psychiatry, are under development.

At UNM HSC, the database had 230,895 on-campus topic reviews during the past year. UpToDate is made available through a partnership between HSLIC and the UNM Medical Group and is funded by the latter.

Darren Braude, MD, MPH, EMT-P, shared a recent experience in which UpToDate allowed him to contribute to a patient’s care remotely, and he thanked HSLIC for making the resource available. “I am thrilled to have UpToDate available remotely. I have used this resource several times since it became available, including one case working in the field with our EMS Consortium Physician Field Response Program,” Dr. Braude says. “I was recently contacted by the Fire Department with a question by phone while on call. The question related to the best management of a patient with a complicated chronic medical condition. I was able to access UpToDate on our vehicle-mounted iPad while on the phone with the crews and to provide the best possible advice.” Dr. Braude is an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Anesthesiology; Medical Director, Rio Rancho Fire Rescue, NM State Police, VRECC; EMS Section Chief and Fellowship Director; Associate Medical Director, The Difficult Airway Course – EMS; and the author of Rapid Sequence Intubation & Rapid Sequence Airway: An Airway 911 Guide, 2nd edition.