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Building Future Researchers: Training High School Research Academy Students in the Use of Academic Medical Library Electronic Resources

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Objective

To determine how best to educate high school students attending a campus-based health research academy in the use of academic medical library electronic resources.

Methods

1. Work with campus-based academy sponsors to determine the outcome-based goals of the students.
2. Research to see what other academic medical libraries have done when educating high school students in the use of medical library resources.
3. Assess best training format based on technology available to students throughout the two-week camp.
4. Determine which library resources best fit the students’ information needs.
5. Develop a post-academy survey to be given to the students to determine the impact of the library training on the students' goal-based outcomes.

Results

In July, 2013, a one-hour training session was provided to twenty-six high school students attending the two-week Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Research Youth Academy at the University of Kentucky (UK). Hands-on demonstrations of National Library of Medicine electronic resources and UK Medical Center Library electronic resources were given with special attention to tools and features found in MedlinePlus.

Conclusion

The students successfully completed their research posters after receiving training on the medical library’s online resources and mentoring from a research assistant. They worked in pairs to select a topic and discern the research method involved. Posters were presented at the conclusion of the camp.

References