Building research capacity through a library collaboration program

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Introduction

- The Penn Biomedical Library has developed a collaborative relationship with leading institutions in Guatemala. These partnerships are aimed at building capacity in the use of information technology, medical information resources, and mobile telemedicine.
- The work presented here builds upon previous, similar experiences in Botswana.
- A grant from the Elsevier Foundation was secured by the library team in conjunction with Dr. Kent Bream (PSOM) to fund these efforts.

The Penn Libraries team
Anne Seymour Carlos Rodriguez Barbara Cavanaugh Manuel de la Cruz Gutierrez

Videos of an overview of Penn Libraries efforts:
1) Going Global to Bring it Local: Strategies for Building Partnerships
   http://repository.upenn.edu/library_global/9/
2) Librarians in Global Biomedical Partnerships
   http://repository.upenn.edu/library_global/10/

Feasibility studies

- A team of Penn faculty, undergraduates and librarians investigated the feasibility of implementing mobile telemedicine and telementoring programs in rural locations such as the Lake Atitlán region.
- Established relationships with librarians at UFM and USAC and identified opportunities for collaboration.
- Mobile Technology:
  - Surveyed medical students at USAC on use of mobile devices
  - Met with USAC faculty to discuss pilot of mHealth project with cohort of medical students doing rural placements

Training programs for Guatemalan researchers

- Hosted and partially supported three librarians from UFM and USAC for visit to Penn
  - Additional support from home institutions, Guatemala-Penn Partnership, and Penn Libraries
  - Exposed to operations and initiatives of Penn Libraries
  - Training in PubMed, EndNote
  - Initial curriculum development
  - Attendance by two Guatemalan librarians at Medical Library Association 2013 in Boston
- Development of curriculum for Critical Appraisal of the Literature course, part of series of courses under the research capacity building funding awarded by Penn and partner institution faculty
  - Worked with Penn faculty and faculty and librarians from partner institutions to develop week-long course
  - Supported acquisition and distribution of articles and reading material
  - With Guatemalan librarian colleagues developed three librarian-led
    sessions integrated into curriculum
- Participated in August 2013 Critical Appraisal of the Literature course held in Guatemala City
  - Carlos Rodriguez gave lecture on IRB structure and risk determination
  - Carlos Rodriguez served as co-instructor of librarian-led sessions
- Support of trainees from Guatemala at Penn
  - Provided literature searching and systematic review of the literature training to 2012/2013 cohort of trainees from Guatemala
  - Provided continuing support in literature searching and citation management to past cohorts of trainees and faculty at partner institutions

Information and technology hub at Atitlán

- Provided remote support of technology and access to information at Hospitalito Supported access to Hinari and use of information resources by clinicians, staff, and students at Hospitalito

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Ana Isabel Sifre Seltzer, PAR’09

Kent Bream (PSOM) and Anne Seymour (Libraries) demo new resources at the Seltzer Family eHealthHub

E-resources on mobile devices

- USAC and UFM Librarians expressed interest in clinical mobile e-resources.
- Funds from Elsevier grant will fund training for them by Spanish-speaking librarian who is expert in the topic.
- Goal: To bring clinical content to the point of care in remote areas.

Future work

- Continue partnerships with Guatemalan librarians!
- With Guatemala-Penn Partnership faculty develop and participate in courses supporting research capacity building
- Explore partnerships in other countries of the region leveraging the newly created Penn in Latin America & the Caribbean (PLAC) group

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Partnerships

Collaboration with partner institutions’ members:

Leadership Administrators Librarians
Trainees Faculty Researchers
Clinicians Students

Hospitalito Atitlán

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