Abstract

Problem

- At the end of 2013, Wikipedia's medical content was made up of more than 150,000 articles across more than 255 languages, and supported by more than 150,000 references.
- At least 94% of medical students use Wikipedia as an information source, yet we do not train them to use this popular resource critically or contribute to its overall value.
- We feel that this is a lost opportunity for our learners and Wikipedia's global audience.

Approach

- Beginning in Fall 2013, we offered a month-long immersion design, deliver and evaluate the course.
- Faculty and medical librarians joined existing partnerships to support our initiative.
- Prioritize the highest impact articles needing improvement.
- Lessons Learned
  - Our first 43 students:
    - contributed 483,004 bytes of content (average of 11,488/student)
    - made 1,528 edits (average 36/student)
    - added a net 274 references
  - The change in number of references cited ranged from 26.5% to 139.2%.
  - The change in number of edits per article ranged from 124% to 484%.
  - The change in number of views per article ranged from 0% to 144%.

Significance

- These results confirm the viability and large social impact of medical students receiving academic credit for contributing to Wikipedia and other open-access repositories of medical knowledge.
- We encourage other health professional schools to replicate and improve on our initiative.

Partnerships

- University of California, San Francisco: San Francisco, California
- Consumer Reports; Yonkers, New York
- University of British Columbia; Vancouver, Canada
- Inspy-i.com; Lagos, Nigeria

References

4. Insp-i.com. "Kool Aid";