

ONLINE TUTORIALS HELP MEDICAL STUDENTS BE 'RESEARCH READY'

Faced with providing help to medical students who had to complete research projects, **MORGANN QUILTY** and **LYDIA DAWE** used online tutorials to reach this notoriously hard to reach group of students.

In mid-2016, the University of Notre Dame Australia's School of Medicine announced the transition from a Level 7 Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) to a Level 9 Medical Doctorate (MD). A key feature of the MD is the research requirement – all students must complete research prior to graduating. Medical students are a unique group to try to reach, with students splitting their time between the campus and the clinic. Yet these students still needed the library's help to navigate the rigours of scholarly inquiry.

With just six months before the launch of the MD program, we identified three options for providing student research instruction. The first was to embed a compulsory information literacy lecture into the curriculum. But this was deemed unfeasible as it required significant change at the school level.

The second option was to embed mini-workshops within each of the problem-based learning tutorials. However, this idea was discarded due to logistical problems.

Our third option was to provide self-directed online tutorials for students to complete in their own time and as needed. This option made the most sense with regards to effort versus impact and we were approved to implement it.


Coincidentally, as we began this project, SpringShare, which provide us with a suite of online services, announced it was introducing LibWizard, a tutorial creation tool. The library team used this software to build a series of interactive tutorials with embedded formative assessments to support our budding researchers. We worked collaboratively across library departments, with key stakeholders within the school, and with students to ensure the content would be relevant and sufficiently comprehensive to meet the needs of our audience.

After piloting the modules with the first year MD students, our 'Health Research Readiness Modules' were released in January 2018. The five modules cover types and sources of health information as well as searching, evaluating, and referencing skills. Each module contains audiovisual elements, multiple choice quizzes, and



opportunities for hands-on practice with our resources, due to LibWizard's ability to embed live webpages in the modules. Although the modules are non-compulsory, over 100 students have already completed the first module – the equivalent of the entire first-year cohort of medical students on a campus. As a result of this success, we are now looking to introduce this series to nursing, physiotherapy and health sciences students in the near future.

Developing the modules taught us invaluable lessons – not only in the technical use of LibWizard itself, but also around instructional design, accessibility, cognitive load, assessment, and myriad other skills. We also learned the value of consistent promotion of the resource to staff and students whenever an opportunity presented itself.

Using LibWizard to create these innovative modules has enhanced the library's profile and prestige within the school, and helped us ensure our students are research ready, right in the nick of time. The modules are available for review at (bit.ly/2KOGnXx). 

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