OBJECTIVES

• Two librarians contributed to a new graduate medical school elective course developed dynamically during the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

METHODS

• Within a month of the COVID-19 outbreak, clerkship rotations at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) at Augusta University were canceled due to the pandemic.

• A four-week Pandemic Medicine elective was proposed to provide opportunities for medical students to participate in service learning and contribute to pandemic response efforts.

• The Assistant Director for Research & Education Services at the Greenblatt Library attended a clerkship curriculum committee meeting where the course was proposed. Afterwards, the librarian contacted the elective organizers and offered to contribute.

• The leaders and faculty members who proposed the elective suggested five areas of focus: information services; mental health and wellness; PPE taskforce; supporting medical education; and telemedicine. The librarians offered to assist with the information services component.

RESULTS

• Both the Assistant Director for Research & Education Services and the Clinical Information Librarian were invited to serve as faculty advisors for the students leading the information services aspects of the elective. Much of the elective was student-driven, including daily COVID-19 and news updates, which were followed by lectures by faculty subject experts.

• The librarians attended weekly planning meetings with the information services group leaders, compiled lists of trustworthy resources for the students to consult, and performed literature searches.

• The students chose to create relevant infographics in multiple languages, produce “mythbusters” information about COVID-19, develop a knowledge base from the literature using Zotero, and post a portal website. The website houses all the student-created content, along with local and national statistics about COVID-19. The website received recognition in the local press and university communication channels.

CONCLUSIONS

• Librarians were successfully integrated into a medical school elective course developed in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

• The librarians were able to demonstrate their value to both students and faculty by providing information, insight, and support to the students as needed.

• The website is still being maintained by MCG students, and the elective has been turned into a permanent “selective” course.

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