

Teaching how to read and write science: a library-journal partnership

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Content

- Context
 - Croatian Medical Journal
 - Central Medical Library
- Teaching how to read and write science (undergraduates)
 - Course developing
 - Course modules
 - Module components
- Teaching how to read and write science (continuing education)
- Where to next?

CROATIAN MEDICAL JOURNAL



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• Revitalization of Academic Medicine
Ophthalmology

Owners: Medical Schools in
Zagreb, Rijeka, Split and
Osijek

Publisher: Medicinska
naklada, Zagreb

- First published in 1992
- In English (not native language of any of the editors)
- Indexed in MEDLINE since 1998
- Indexed in ISI databases since 1999
- Bimonthly, circulation of ~1,000 copies, receiving ~300 articles yearly
- Impact factor 0.943

Central Medical Library



- Founded in 1947.
- Organization: central library with two departmental libraries,
- Collections: ca. 80.000 volumes of books and periodicals; 600 current periodical titles; a collection of over 4.000 textbooks, handbooks and atlases; + 4000 e-journals, +40 e-books (nationwide consortium),
- Local bibliographic database BIOMEDICINA CROATICA
- Personnel: 8 librarians, 6 assistant librarians
- Budget: financed by the parent institution and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

CMJ and CML: how did the co-operation begin?

- CML → CMJ's authors: help in finding and editing references
- CML → CMJ: help in formulating exchange policy
- CMJ → CML: head librarian joined the Editorial Board

CMJ Editors and Board Members



How do CMJ and CML cooperate?

- CML → CMJ:
 - help to the authors,
 - bibliometric analysis,
 - help in the routine editorial work,
 - education.
- CMJ → CML:
 - promoting Library's services and librarians' skills to the Faculty and wider medical community.

Teaching how to read and write science – general stimuli

- The curriculum **should** include elements for training students in scientific thinking and research methods (**WFME Global Standards for Quality Improvement**).
- Students **should** be enabled to use information and communication technology for self-learning, accessing information, managing patients...
- Promotion of evidence-based approach to practice, teaching, and research.

Teaching how to read and write science – specific stimulus

- Results of CMJ's analysis of papers received for publication:

Croatian physicians have interesting data but insufficient writing skills to present them in a form of a research article.

- CMJ introduced an author-helpful policy...

(for details see Misak A, Marusic M, Marusic A. Manuscript editing as a way of teaching academic writing: Experience from a small scientific journal. *Journal of Second Language Writing* 2005;14:122–131)

Teaching how to read and write science – integration into undergraduate curriculum

- A mandatory course in scientific methodology and communication was developed by the members of the CMJ's Editorial Board (editors-in-chief, statistical editors, head librarian)
- The 2nd-year undergraduate course “Introduction to the Scientific Research in Medicine” was introduced in 1995/96
- A textbook was prepared and published.

Introduction to the Scientific Research in Medicine (3rd revised edition)



Course's Modules

- Principles of scientific research
- Study design and presentation of data
- **Access to medical literature**
- Writing a scientific article

Course's components

- Lectures
- Discussions in medium-sized groups
- Problem solving in small groups
- Test (multichoice questionnaire)

Access to medical literature - CML's module

- Plenary core lecture (1 hour) :
 - general characteristics of publishing in medicine
 - Primary, secondary and tertiary resources
 - Print and electronic formats
 - Important bibliographic databases
 - Web resources
- Hands-on problem-solving exercises in small groups (3 hours, 10 to 15 students)
 - Introduction to PubMed
 - Scenario
 - PubMed search
 - Discussion

Teaching how to read and write science – continuing medical education courses

- CMJ and CML started two continuing medical education courses:
 - Planning and Writing a Research Article, in 2002.
 - Finding and Appraisal of Medical Information, in 2004.
- Participants: young academic physicians, junior researchers, practitioners
- Supported by the Croatian Medical Chamber

Workshops on writing in biomedicine



Where to next?

- CMJ and CML developed two electives in evidence based medicine
 - The importance of finding good evidence (CML)
 - Research data analysis and writing research report (CMJ)
- CMJ answers to your clinical question – web service (in Croatian) on the CMJ's web site helping physicians in transferring evidence into the clinical practice
 - a librarian responsible for search and critical appraisal of evidence

Thank you!



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