

CGEA Computers in Medicine SIG Business Meeting

March 26, 1999

The following topics were discussed:

1. Study of Internet-based health information virtual library (Ken Williamson)

Ken Williamson (Southern Illinois University School of Medicine) reported that he had been contacted by Valerie Florence, project director for [better-health](#), which is a AAMC initiative to develop ways that medical schools and teaching hospitals can best use information technology, in biomedical research, education and health care, to improve the health of people and communities. He distributed a survey from better-health to determine how the Computers in Medicine SIG might work with that group. More information about the group and better_health project is available at: [better health project](#).

2. How do we assess effectiveness of computer-assisted instruction in medical education? (Copyright issues; funding issues)

(James Walker/Purdue)

James Walker (Purdue) distributed two handouts. Chris Reznich (Michigan State University College of Human Medicine) suggested contacting the Kellogg Foundation for funding to study the issue and said that he was also checking into copyright issues. Chris Reznich and Marshall Anderson (Indiana University School of Medicine) said that they had found online tutorials on copyright. One advantage of web-based technology is that student interaction with the resource can be tracked and compared to performance. Ken Williamson (SIU School of Medicine) said that a good definition of computer assisted instruction could be found in a 1996 article on metanalysis by Kublick, and that CAI is no longer controversial. Technology does enhance learning, but there are other factors that help more, such as tutoring. Technology does not have to prove itself better, just comparable, because of its inherent advantages.

3. Internet II (Maureen Battistella)

Maureen Battistella (University of South Dakota School of Medicine) asked why institutions were not participating and taking advantages of the new resources available with Internet II (www.internetII.gov). The response was that InternetII is expensive, approximately \$6000/month, and that the advantages do not yet outweigh some of the restrictions, particularly the fact that Internet I must be relinquished to use Internet II and Internet II is currently used primarily as a research tool for long-distance collaboration between research laboratories in real-time. It does not yet each into education. Most schools are following an academic approach: see what can be developed and then see what can be done with it. An educational approach would be to determine what Schools

need and then work to get those needs met. A major part of the process is to redefine IP addresses.

4. Y2K (Maureen Battistella)

Most universities have been steeped in the Y2K process for at least a year. Marshall Anderson reported that Indiana University's equipment inventory did not originally include equipment less than \$500, but they have since some rather inexpensive, but important equipment had non-compliant computer chips. There is also a concern that some computers may have trouble with April 9, 1999, since it is the 99th day of 99th year, which may be a problem for some computers (9999). Indiana is also trying to address possible scenarios, including the human side of the issue, as well as the technology side.

5. Possibilities of collaboration with the NLM (George Nowacek)

Last spring, George Nowacek (Ohio) attended an NLM workshop on courseware development and developed the following process and criteria:

Develop and update a WebWare Directory.

Description:

Use the Web-resources identified in Paul's Ethermed and the AAMC SIG page the basis for building the directory. Apply the criteria for inclusion/exclusion of these resources and test the functionality of the links.

The resulting list of screened URLs from these two sources would be used to create a prototype directory.

Assessment

Searchable

Scope and Coverage

"Actual lessons and educational resources, including image collections developed for the purpose of teaching, atlases, textbooks, tutorials, case studies, simulations, and lectures that have images and accompanying narratives as text or streaming audio/video.

Health professional education focus.

English Language.

Free and accessible by public on the Internet, without any password/logon process.

Available on on-commercial servers, i.e., edu, gov, mil, org; materials on .com and .net would be excluded.

Procedures

TLC staff would develop list of possible entries from own sources and SIG website.

TLC staff would create a record for each entry and put in a web-accessible database.

SIG members would be identified (6) to be responsible for subject areas, paid as consultants for 1-2 days

SIG members would have access to the database to review collected material and review the application's website.

Directory updated annually.

George said that there is enough uncertainty at this point that it may be best to leave it on

hold until the NLM has time to decide the level resources it can devote to the project. In response to the proposal, it was noted that an annual update was not appropriate (would have to be more frequent); six SIG member consultants would not be sufficient; and that NET and COM sites might have appropriate educational sites, and should be included in the search.

It was also noted that the NLM already has a healthweb site.

It was suggested that the NLM might work directly with authors, rather than going through the Computers in Medicine SIG. A website could be established where authors could submit pre-print sites for public review.

AAMC supported this project, but it was clear that the real challenge to the project is the peer review that NLM is asking the SIG to provide.

6. Institutional Developments

Michigan State University College of Human Medicine: Chris Reznich reported that a Faculty Development Seminar Series has been developed called Computer Boot Camp. The project has been very successful to date and will eventually be on website.

Indiana University School of Medicine: Marshall Anderson reported that a project called ONCOURSE has been developed, which is a web-based mechanism for delivering coursework, assessments. The site can be accessed at [Oncourse](#) (login as guest and use demo).

SIU School of Medicine: Terri Cameron reported that a Distance Problem-Based Learning (DPBL) project using Microsoft's NetMeeting and electronic problem-based learning module (E-PBLM) had been developed and were being tested with student volunteers.

7. Other

Chris Reznich noted that the agenda was prepared by sending a notice to the CGEA list, and that this seemed to be a good way to handle agenda development in the future.

Reported by Terri Cameron