An Informatics Course for First Year Pharmacy Students
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New Curriculum and Change of Focus

• Pharmacist as “Information Provider”
• Now viewed as having some features in common with librarianship
• Greater emphasis on teaching lifelong learning skills
SOP Mission

• “..commitment to the lifelong learning required to remain experts in the safe and optimally effective use of drug products in patients…”

• “Defend the health of the public by sharing evidence-based opinions with policy-makers….”
UCSF Librarians Building on Past Achievements

• Education unit
  - internet classes for School of Pharmacy faculty and staff
  - classroom orientations for incoming students
  - increased credibility
Course Planning

- Initial meetings, input from:
  - pharmacy faculty
  - librarians
  - representatives from other departments

- How can clinical pharmacist use informatics in practice?

- Challenge of engaging first year students

- Coherent and relevant
BPS114: Course Outline

- Fundamentals of databases and database design
- Pharmacy information systems
- Drug information systems
- Health information management systems
Librarians Contribution

• Library resources for pharmacy information
• Introduction to the concept of “structured vocabularies”
• Basic database principles
• Working with MS Access databases
  – Concept of a relational database
Thomas A. Oliver Informatics Resource Center (IRC)

Pharmacy students at the Thomas A. Oliver Informatics Resource Center
MS Access

- Hands-on computer lab sessions
- Six three-hour sessions
- To illustrate database management principles
- Serve as an introduction to pharmacy databases using MS Access
Relational Database Design and Data Manipulation
Pharmacy Applications

• Relational database design for a pharmacy system that provides drug information and about prescriptions ordered for patients

• Query: *Retrieve all prescriptions for patient x for pain killers written in past three weeks*
Outcome and Evaluation

• Positive response from students
• Course to be offered in Spring 2001 with MS Access classes
• Faculty and librarians working as partners
Conclusions

• Librarians have unique skills and knowledge in information management and retrieval

• Exciting opportunities for librarians make contributions to informatics education