Dental Resident Orientation

On June 27th, incoming Pediatric Dentistry Residents attended a library orientation and database training. The orientation consisted of a library tour followed by an introduction on how to use library resources to find dental information. Topics included using the library catalog to search for books and journals, off-campus access to library resources, requesting materials the library doesn’t have through Interlibrary Loan, finding databases for research, and accessing full-text articles. Residents were also shown how to access the new Evidence-Based Practice LibGuide for the School of Dentistry, which offers dental resources and research tools. These newly developed resources were compiled by our Library Liaison to the School of Dentistry.

Conducting Research at the University Level

Each summer the Laredo Regional Campus is the site for many college preparation programs offered by the Mid Rio Grande Valley Area Health Education Center (MRGV AHEC). The Regional Campus branch library often has the privilege of participating in the summer programs by featuring the benefits of learning how to use a health science library for students who have an interest in applying to medical school or other health profession programs. This year on June 5th, UT Health librarian Peg Seger provided a presentation for students on utilizing library resources to conduct university-level research. Concepts explored included evidence-based medicine, literature reviews, and levels of evidence.

NIHSeniorHealth.gov to be Retired on August 1

Through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM), a number of online health information sites are freely available and seek to improve health literacy by providing reliable, up-to-date health information. Studies have shown that an individual’s health literacy level is a key indicator of an individual’s level of health. To address the health of seniors, NIHSeniorHealth.gov was introduced in 2003 and was the only one of its kind. The original developers of the site recognized that older adults often faced a number of challenges with utilizing online information due to underlying cognitive and visual needs. For this reason, innovative options such as text resizing, color contrast, text-to-voice, “chunked” content, and the use of plain language were incorporated with content targeted specifically toward individuals 60 years and older.

In the current online environment, the same innovative practices have become more commonplace and there has been an explosion of other resources that can be accessed by people of all ages. Due to this, the decision has been made to retire the NIHSeniorHealth website, however, much of the valuable and updated content will be available through other NIH and NLM sites. As of August 1, 2017, users will be redirected to the Health and Aging section of NIA website. Other sites that continue to provide evidence-based health information for seniors include the NIHSeniorHealth YouTube Channel, NIA Go4Life, and the premier NLM consumer health site MedlinePlus.