

# COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT: BUILDING A WEB-BASED FAMILY PRACTICE SUBJECT GUIDE

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## THE NEED

To provide family practitioners at UT Southwestern Medical Center with optimal organization of Web-based resources.

Electronic access provides the most rapid and flexible method of getting information to the individual. However, we are in the midst of an Internet information explosion, and the number of resources available electronically continues to grow. For the health care professional, keeping up with the vast array of material available is a time consuming process, as is learning how to access each resource. A collaborative endeavor was undertaken between Library staff and the Family Practice department at UT Southwestern to address this challenge.

## THE GOAL

To provide the most valuable family practice resources in a usable manner and to facilitate the acquisition of clinically relevant information in "real time."

The UT Southwestern Library is committed to providing Web-based virtual library services and resources to the UT Southwestern Medical Center. A Library staff member participates on the Family Practice committee that is implementing a Web-based residency curriculum. In addition, the librarian was meeting with the Family Practice faculty concerning Library products and services of interest to faculty, residents, and students. A method needed to be devised to organize and deliver Web-based information specifically for campus family practitioners.

## THE SOLUTION

A collaborative team consisting of Family Practice faculty, a content client liaison and Web developers from the Library.

Faculty members of the Family Practice department partnered with the UT Southwestern Library to develop a highly selective list of Web pages targeted to the needs of family practitioners. On the Library side, the project team included a programmer, a design expert and a content liaison to the Family Practice department. The Library's content liaison met with the Family Practice faculty to determine the initial content and organization of the Family Practice Subject Guide. A link to the Family Practice Guide sits on UT Southwestern Library's home page.

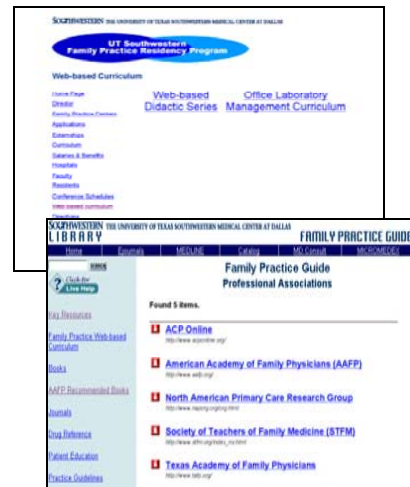
## THE RESULT

A highly selective list of family practice resources organized by client-defined categories.

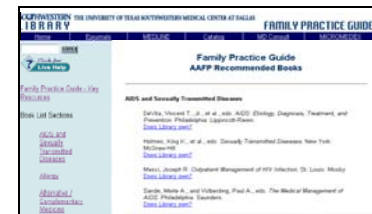
The Family Practice Guide targets the best and most useful, rather than attempting to be comprehensive, so users don't have to wade through long lists of sites. It includes sections on electronic books and journals, drugs, patient education, guidelines and evidence based medicine, links to professional associations, grants information, and CME opportunities in Family Practice. The Guide also contains a link to the new Web-based residency curriculum program. Feedback from a variety of Family Practice faculty further increased the Practice Guide's relevance. Library staff maintain the links and the Library's content liaison continues to elicit feedback from family practitioners to suggest additional resources for possible inclusion.



The Library Web page's search engine creates a long list of family practice resources on the Web.



Faculty requested links to the new Web-based residency curriculum page and professional organizations.



The AAFP Recommended Book List searches the Library's catalog for resources appearing on the list.



The new Family Practice Guide is a highly selective list of Web-based family practice resources.