There is an “i” in Our Team - iPad

OBJECTIVE

Redefining the role of the academic medical library: transforming the faculty-library relationship from academic supporter and supplier to facilitator through knowledge management and collaboration between Interprofessional groups.

Librarian roles change from providing access to information, and facilitating scholarly use of information, to providing access to iPads and apps, and facilitating social learning between scholars regarding medical technology trends and evaluation.

METHODOLOGY

- Transforming traditional librarian skill sets for a successful approach to technology through partnerships and collaboration.

- Studying medical school iPad pilots and collaborating with other librarians as well as faculty and students to develop an understanding of user needs for information.

- Facilitating an open group for early adopters of iPad to share their experiences and setup opportunities to collaborate for social learning.

- Developing our iPad LibGuide, iPad Forum, and a Mobile tab on the library LibGuides providing recommended apps.

- Creating a new Emerging Technology Librarian position to research and facilitate iPad usage, app selection and collaboration between different colleges in the health sciences programs.

RESULTS

By putting an “i” in our team, Nova Southeastern University, Health Professions Division (HPD) Library is now the hub of information and communication for all iPad and app related information. HPD Librarians work directly with faculty, students, and staff to develop & implement projects, iPad training & integration in classrooms, clinics and field work, access to mobile library resources, and app evaluation. Through the Library’s iPad Initiative Group meetings and circulating iPads to faculty and staff, we successfully fostered iPad projects & initiatives throughout the 7 Colleges of the Health Professions Division. In addition, the iPad Initiative has greatly increased library visibility as users have become more aware of the available mobile library resources, as well as the support and services we provide. An added benefit of the increased visibility, not yet fully analyzed, seems to be that mobile database usage has steadily increased since we began the iPad Initiative.

CONCLUSION

Within Nova Southeastern University’s Health Professions Division, there is an increased awareness of the skills and talents HPD librarians offer, and the new roles we fill in this ever-changing medical information services environment in terms of information delivery, technology and education trends, interprofessional communication and collaboration, training and evaluation. We will continue to build upon our iPad Initiative and hope to inspire more projects and initiatives throughout the University.