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The Impact of Library Instruction on Medical Student Information Seeking Behavior

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Librarian-led instruction on clinical-specific resources is correlated with an improvement in medical students' searching behavior between their M1 and M2 years.



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The Impact of Library Instruction on Medical Student Information Seeking Behavior

Angela Barr MLIS, AHIP

Introduction/Background

Librarians at Dahlgren Memorial Library (DML) provide instruction on clinical resources for 2 Grand Rounds activities because:

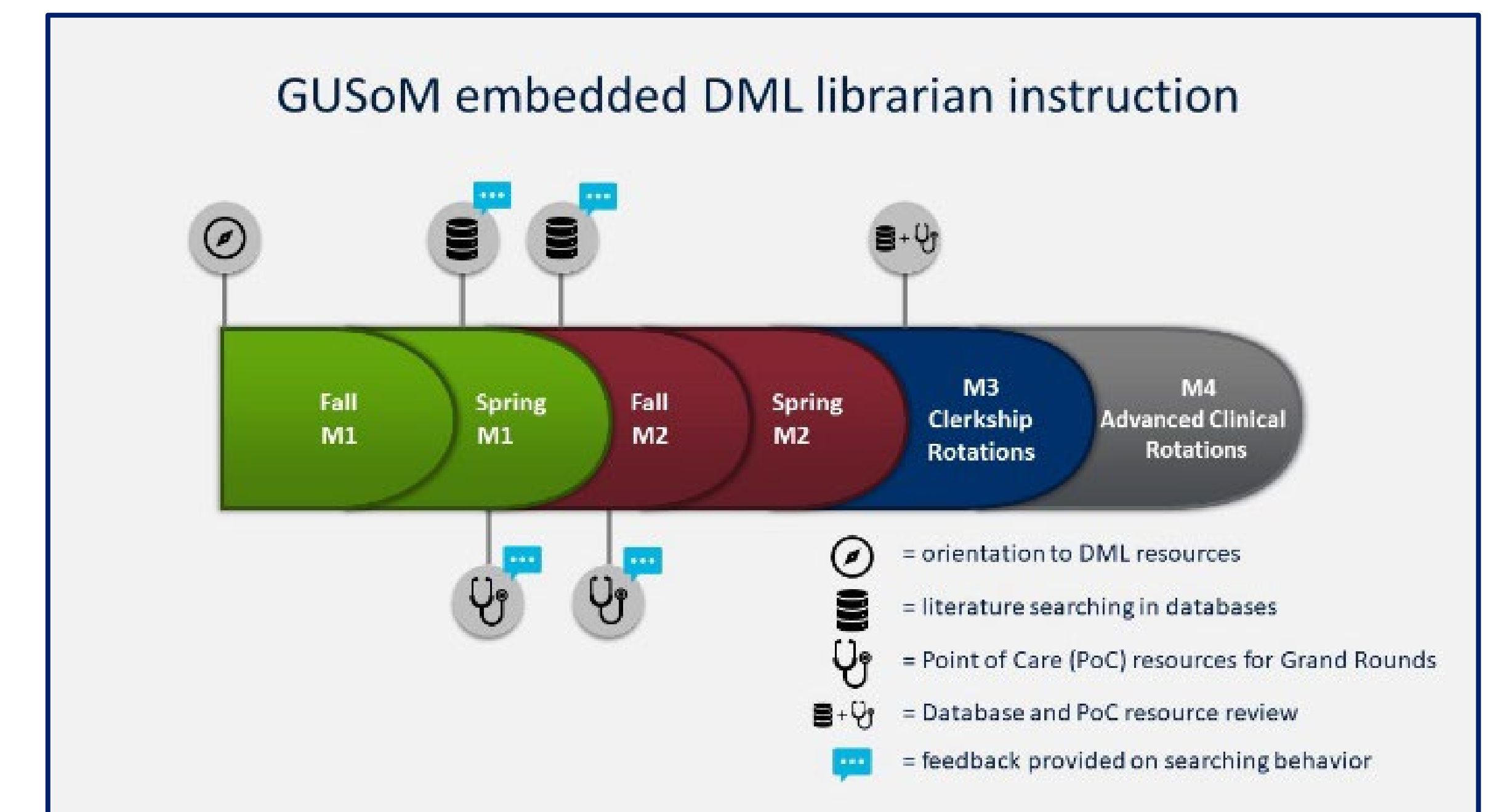
1. Many incoming medical students lack adequate information seeking skills.
2. Students must use/choose different resources at different points of their training and in different contexts.
3. Embedded library instruction is more meaningful when applied to real world contexts and repeated at multiple time points.

During the Grand Rounds activities, students are provided patient scenarios, starting with simple patient history and physical information. Through a multi-step process, the students propose diagnoses and answer questions about the care and treatment of the likely conditions. Grand Rounds exercises are often one of the first exposures to clinical reasoning skills for medical students.

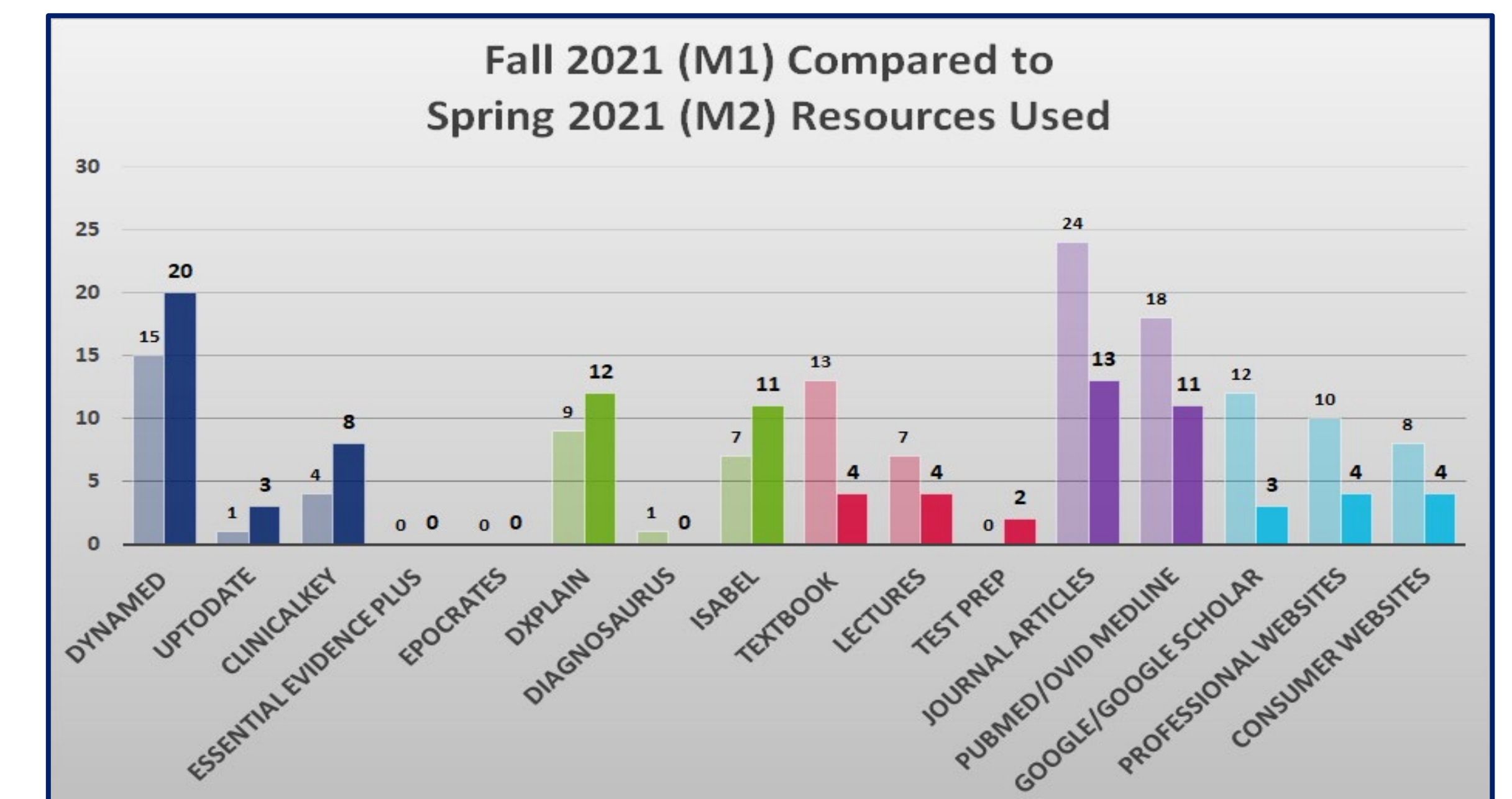
Methods

DML librarians provided instruction on use of Point-of-Care (PoC) tools to M1 students prior to their first Grand Rounds exercise. Students reported what resources they selected and what search terms they used for those resources. Librarians provided feedback during the case presentation on the students' choice of resources and search strategies. The Grand Rounds exercise was repeated in the spring of the M2 year with a different case. Data for cohorts were analyzed and compared between their M1 and M2 cases.

Timeline of Library Instruction



Results



Discussion

Between the M1 and M2 Grand Rounds exercises, the students' increased their use of evidence summaries and diagnostic tools, which are more authoritative and more appropriate for a clinical context.

Conclusion

In the context of 2 Grand Rounds cases, librarian-led instruction of Point-of-Care tools is correlated with improved medical students' searching behavior.