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The Utilization Of An Emergency Medicine Specific Library Website In The Clinical Setting

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The Utilization Of An Emergency Medicine Specific Library Website In The Clinical Setting
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BACKGROUND
Efficient access to academic resources in the Emergency Department is crucial to the Emergency Physician. We designed an Emergency Medicine library guide, collecting and organizing commonly utilized and EM specific electronic resources, including journals and e-books.

METHODS
We created an EM library website (using LibGuide by Springshare) with links to commonly utilized EM resources. Two similar tests were created with clinical questions simulating ED cases. Forty-six EM residents from the University of Massachusetts participated in the study. They were divided into two groups, each answering a set of questions using any resources. The EM library guide was then introduced, and residents were asked to use it to answer the other set of questions to compare accuracy and speed. A survey was also sent to Residents and Attendings to assess the new resource.

RESULTS
A total of 23 residents completed both tests of clinical questions, one test taken prior to the introduction of the EM library guide, and one test taken after. There was no statistical significance in the number of questions answered correctly before or after introduction of the EM library guide (4.3/7 compared to 3.4/7, P=0.0873). The time taken to answer the questions was shorter after the introduction of the EM library guide (16.9 minutes compared to 13.9 minutes, P<0.00224).

Do you prefer the Emergency Medicine focused library website to the general library website?

- Prefer general library website: 2 (3.9%)
- Indifferent: 10 (16.95%)
- Prefer EM specific website: 47 (79.66%)

Would you favor making the library link from the iBox screen go to the EM focused library guide instead of the general library website?

- No, leave as general site: 9 (15.25%)
- Indifferent: 3 (5.08%)
- Yes, change to the EM focused site: 47 (79.66%)

CONCLUSION
Emergency Physicians prefer utilizing an EM specific library website, compared to an academic medical library website. Although accuracy was not improved using the EM-specific library site, the time taken to answer the clinical questions was significantly improved, thus supporting the benefit of an EM-specific library website.