Title:

Translating veterinary clinical experiences into effective educational experiences with case studies

“PubMed Tutorial for Veterinarians” URL:

http://cases.vetmoodle.org/CET_CoursePlayer/demo1/public/pubmed.html

Digital collection of the documents for the “PubMed Tutorial for Veterinarians”:

http://hdl.handle.net/1969.1/158203

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Translating veterinary clinical experiences into effective educational experiences with case studies

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Abstract

Educating the next generation of veterinary practitioners is evolving and medical knowledge is growing rapidly, outstripping the practitioners' ability to keep up with the medical literature. One challenge is shifting from primarily testing factual knowledge, towards demonstrating proficiencies in professional competencies. This emphasis highlights the importance of collaborating with content specialists, such as partnering with librarians, to support the development of information competencies.

Teaching professional competencies in a curriculum can be overwhelming, especially for those without a background in educating adult learners. However, a variety of teaching methods and tools can facilitate moving from clinic to classroom.

Frameworks may assist in constructing case studies to support contextual teaching. This approach is advantageous because the content is familiar and the framework facilitates chunking the information into a case study with a logical progression of information for learning.

We designed a case study worksheet that we then used to create the "PubMed for Veterinarians" tutorial. It is a simple case study providing context for users while they learn an information competency searching PubMed. The tutorial provides a framework that practitioners can use as a model to translate clinical experiences to educational experiences for the classroom. In this example, the medical case was intentionally uncomplicated to emphasize the PubMed skills.

The "Pubmed for Veterinarians" tutorial is a collaborative effort that emphasizes clinical information as context for learning and information competency.

As an instructor, the practitioner can use tools like this case study worksheet to translate experiences into context for teaching that emphasizes competencies and develops skills for practitioners in practice.

Application

Designing materials for curricula that support professional competencies requires creativity and planning to encourage skill development instead of memorization. Case studies are an effective method that can provide context to a student for many competencies. However, it is important to stay focused on the stated learning outcome while designing case studies.

This design must account for the education level of the audience and the built-in task must support the desired competency by guiding the student stepwise through a process.

Our PubMed case study framework provides instructors with a step-by-step process for writing case studies. It is specific to PubMed, a freely available biomedical science article index that includes a core group of veterinary journals. This trains students to search for published evidence to inform their decisions before they leave school and become independent practitioners.

Both the framework and tutorial are written with the intent to be applicable to the larger group of veterinarian practitioners, not just students.

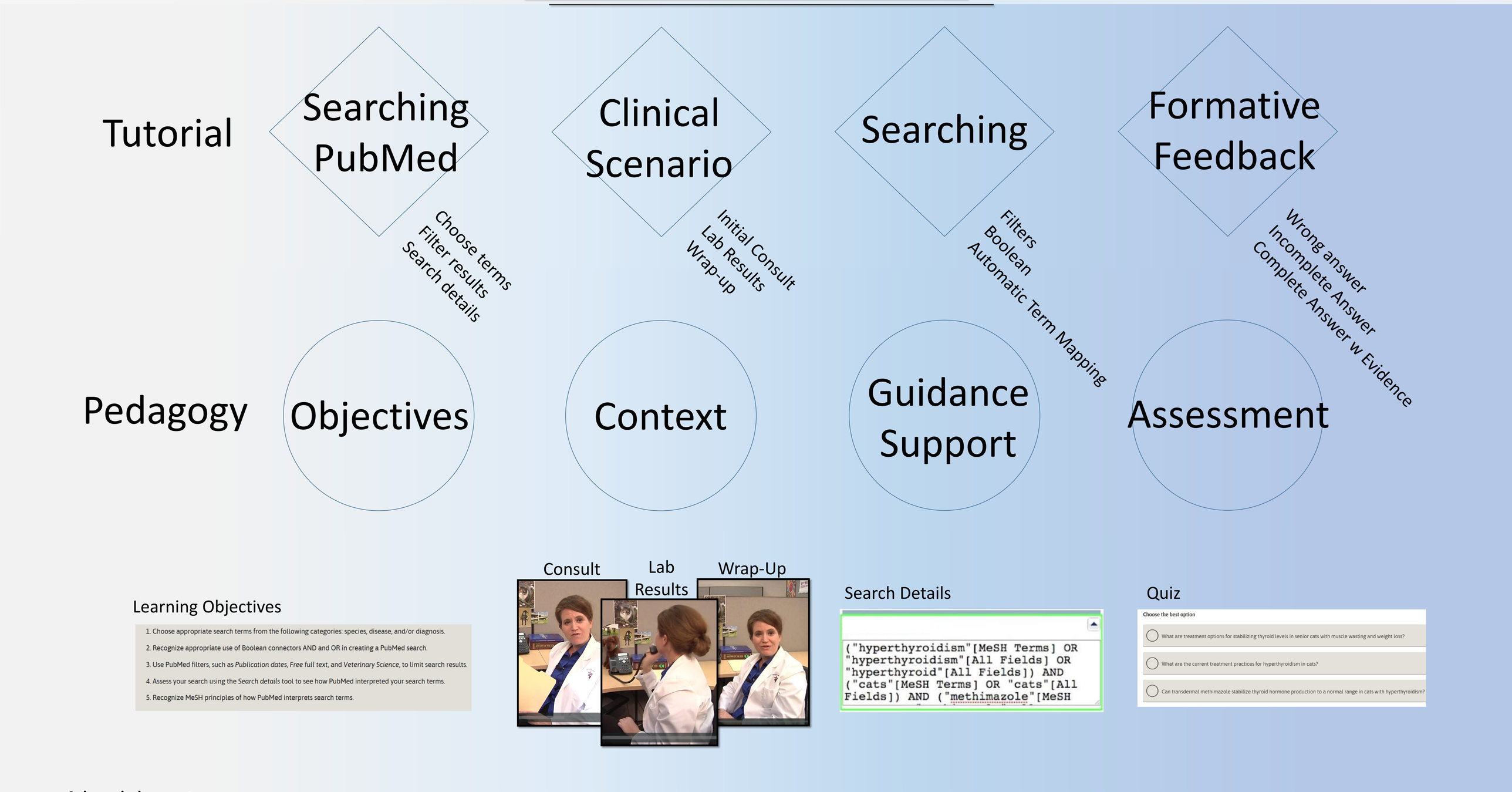
Open-Access Resources

The following materials are available through Texas A&M University's institutional repository, the OAKTrust Digital Repository:

- Pubmed tutorial
- Tutorial script
- Case studies in PubMed outline framework
- Completed framework for the tutorial
- Storyline are freely available
- Handouts generated for the PubMed tutorial

http://hdl.handle.net/1969.1/158203

PubMed Tutorial for Veterinarians



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