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Putting a Squeeze on PubMed

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Putting a Squeeze on PubMed
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Introduction
How do you squeeze a 13-hour professional development class on PubMed into a 1-hour staff development workshop? This was the challenge that we, the workshop organizers, faced after completing the PubMed for Trainers class in the summer of 2013. Although the University hosted the class, there were several UVM librarians who could not attend. The issue facing us was how to effectively pass along the valuable information from the workshop to those absent colleagues.

Our solution was to distill the most essential information from the class into a series of micro-presentations and deliver them using a modified Pecha Kucha format. This poster outlines the experience because it all elements in the structure were appealing to us initially, its requirements (number of slides X the amount of time that each slide is visible) became limitations for our presentation needs. These strict requirements were gently modified whereby each presenter was given the freedom to select the number of slides in their own presentation and the slides did not have to automatically advance. In addition, each presenter’s time limit was expanded to 7-8 minutes.

Choosing a Presentation Strategy
Pecha Kucha seemed to be a perfect fit for our professional development workshop. This presentation format uses the following formula:

\[
20 \text{ Slides} \times 20 \text{ Seconds Each} = 6:40
\]

Other advantages of Pecha Kucha:
- Slides advance automatically to ensure that the presenter adheres to the 6 minute, 40 second time frame
- Format forces the presenter to be clear, concise, and focused

Our Modification
Although the Pecha Kucha structure was appealing to us initially, its requirements (number of slides X the amount of time that each slide is visible) became limitations for our presentation needs. These strict requirements were gently modified whereby each presenter was given the freedom to select the number of slides in their own presentation and the slides did not have to automatically advance. In addition, each presenter’s time limit was expanded to 7-8 minutes.

The five presenters covered the following topics:

- My NCBI & Automatic Term Mapping by Alice Stokes
- Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) by Nancy Bianchi
- Searching PubMed for Drug Information by Joanne Montanye
- Rapid Design by Gary Atwood
- Comparative Effectiveness Research by Fred Pond

Conclusion
Each presenter also created some kind of handout for the participants. Some handouts provided additional information about the topics that were presented while others contained links to related resources.

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