



Effectiveness of a faculty workshop on finding evidence for teaching and learning in medicine

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Goal

This study assesses the effectiveness of a workshop on improving the literature search skills and confidence of health sciences faculty.



The Literature

Program descriptions with evaluations

- Face-to-face workshops

Akers, C., Martin, N., & Summey, T. (2000)

Hall, L. A. (1999)

Hurst, L. (2003)

Rothera, H. (2001)

White, B., Gendall, R. & Naidoo, K. (2004)

- On-line tutorials

Kelsey, S. & Lenares, D. (2002)

Perry, P.A. (2001)



The Literature (II)

Needs assessments of faculty

Mackenzie, A. & Makin, L. (2003)

Quigley, B. D., Church, G. M., & Peterson, A. (2001)



How this study is unique

- Faculty, not “just” clinicians
- Focus on educational innovations and research, not clinical research
- Assesses more than reaction-type data, including learning, behaviour, and confidence of workshop participants



The workshop



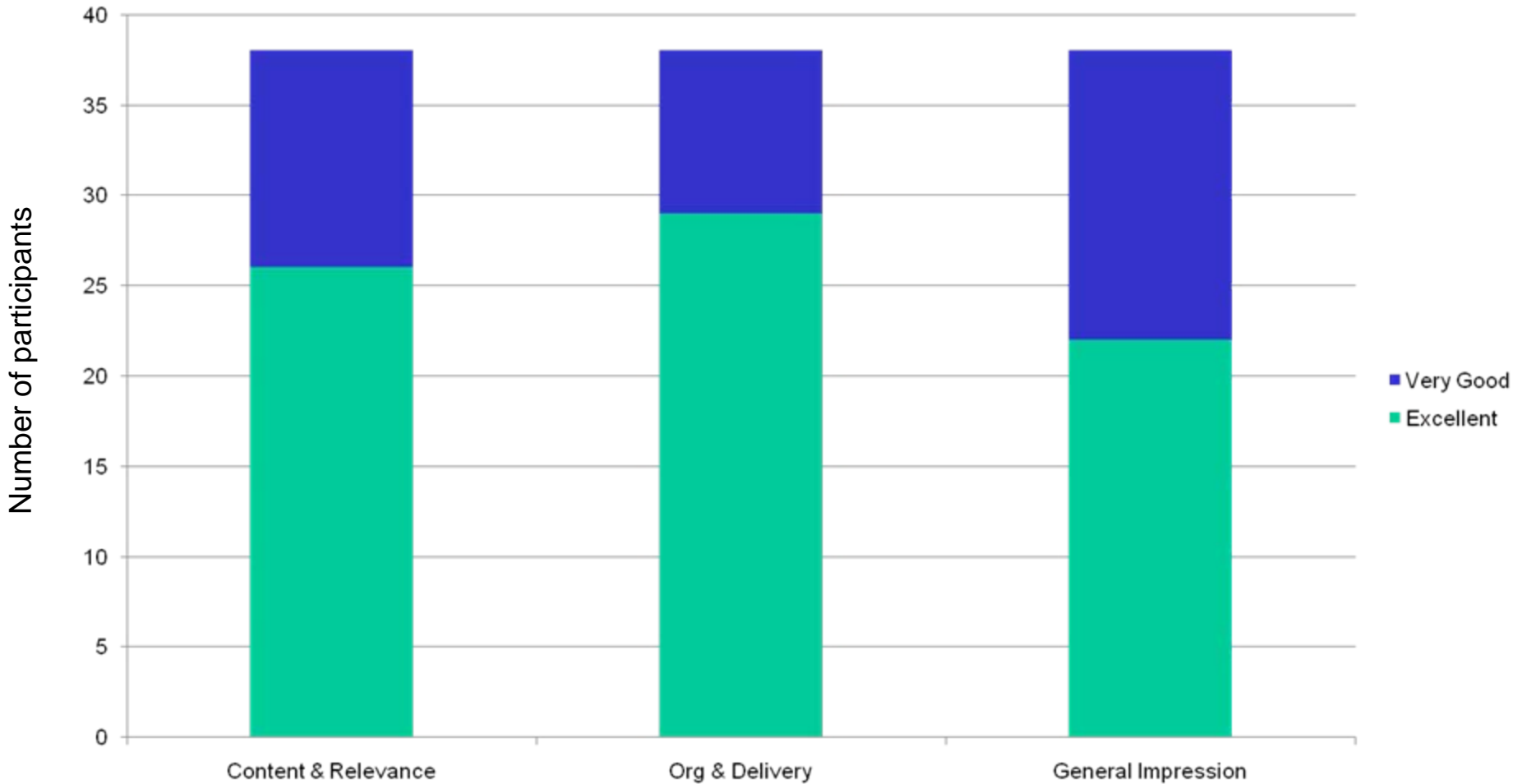


The workshop content

- Discussion of what constitutes evidence in education research
- Hands-on searching using MEDLINE and ERIC
- Searching using other databases (e.g., Campbell Collaboration, CINAHL, EMBASE, PsycINFO, TimeLit)
- Locating full-text articles
- Practice time



Reaction (I)





Reaction (II)

What was most helpful?

Popular comments:

- Availability of librarian “tutors” (those roving around the room)
- Practice time
- Hands-on progressive exposure to various search features; step-by-step walk through
- Detailed handouts
- Practical emphasis



Learning (I)

Pre-test vs. post-test scores

- Mean score pre-workshop: 3.38 / 10 (n=30)
- Mean score post-workshop: 4.42 / 10 (n=12)
- Average improvement in participants who completed both pre-post test: 1.67 points / 10 (n=9)

Learning (II)



	Total checking 'I already know this'	Total checking 'I learned (more) today'	Both boxes checked
How to translate a topic into a search statement	14	32	12
How to use a subject headings in a search	17	34	14
How to include subheadings in a search	3	33	2
The difference b/w AND and OR	30	18	11



Attitude (n=12)

	Mean rating (1-5; 5=very high level)
How confident do you feel in searching the literature?	3.28
How effective do you think your searches are now (i.e. , Do you find what you want)?	3.44
How efficient do you think your searches are now (i.e., Do you find what you want quickly)?	3.22



Conclusion

The majority of participants exhibited learning of specific concepts at the end of the workshop. It is not clear, however, if this learning was retained over time, nor if it increased participants' confidence or sense of effectiveness.

Participants expressed appreciation for the workshop, both immediately after and 10 months later, indicating that it is *perceived* as a useful step in retaining and improving information literacy skills.