

Scaffolding Medical Student Library Instruction

Existing Services and Ideal Integration for the HEALS Curriculum

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Background

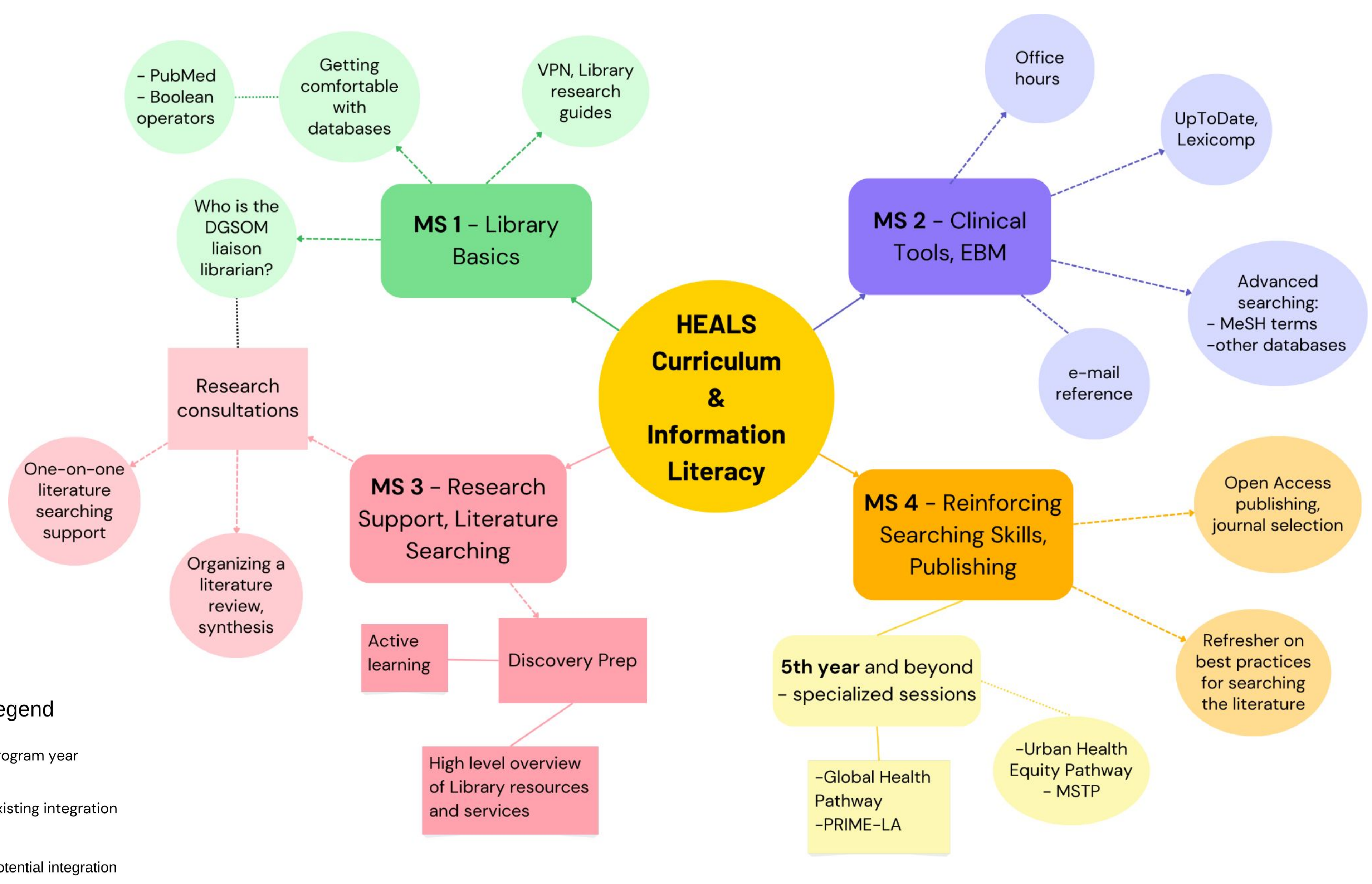
The Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library provides spaces, staff, librarians, resources, and services to support the four health sciences schools at UCLA, including the David Geffen School of Medicine. The Biomedical Library recently hired a new Medical Education Librarian to serve as the liaison to DGSOM and develop **targeted library services and collections** to support medical student education.

UCLA medical students have specific information needs throughout their medical degree program and education. Library instruction from the Medical Education Librarian can help students learn essential tools and resources that will increase their health sciences information literacy competencies. **Mapping library instruction to the HEALS curriculum** will ensure that the skills being taught correspond to tangible academic requirements and scholarly research activities.

Context - Existing Services

Library Resources	Existing UCLA Library Services
Remote Access to Resources	UCLA VPN or Mednet VPN to access databases, journals, etc. while off campus
Databases	PubMed, Embase, Web of Science, APA PsycInfo, Cochrane Library
Clinical Tools	UpToDate, Micromedex, NatMedPro
Online and Print Textbooks	E-book packages (e.g. AccessMedicine), Costanzo's Physiology, First Aid 34th ed.
Research Guides	Medicine Research Guide maintained by the Medical Education Librarian
Research consultations	Virtual and in-person consultations offered by all UCLA biomedical librarians
STEM Research Workshops	Quarterly workshops that introduce foundational STEM concepts and resources
Library Orientation Sessions	Tabling sessions to meet new students and orient them to the library
One-Shot Instruction Sessions	Presentations on library resources and skills targeted to specific programs and year of study, e.g. search strategies, using a citation manager, writing an abstract, etc.

Ideal Integration - HEALS Curriculum



Discussion

Scaffolding library learning outcomes across the curriculum can allow students to gain **foundational skills that will support their research activities** in medical school, residency, and beyond. Recent initiatives to support the PRIME-LA program, Discovery Prep, and the Global Health Pathway indicate that library instruction has a valuable place across the undergraduate medical education program and the HEALS curriculum.

A health sciences information literacy thread may be a tangible way to support a longitudinal approach to meeting educational objectives with library research skills. Building this thread will require **collaboration between the Medical Education Librarian and DGSOM curricular affairs faculty and staff**. Embedding library instruction with the intention to strengthen research skills and lifelong learning has the potential to have great success at UCLA.

References

- HEALS curriculum. UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. (n.d.). <https://medschool.ucla.edu/education/md-education/curriculum/heals-curriculum>
- Research Guide: Medicine. UCLA Library Research Guides. (n.d.). <https://guides.library.ucla.edu/medicine>