

Problem-Based learning in collaboration and network resources for medical education

Committee on the Application of Information Technologies in Medical Education

Hiroaki ANDO, Information Processing Center, Aichi Medical University
Nagakute-cho, Aichi-gun, Aichi Pref. Zip code 480-1195
TEL +81-561-62-3311, E-mail h_ando@aichi-med-u.ac.jp

1. First

The problem-based learning (PBL) is well known as an effective method also for medical education. Network environments and medical resources (multimedia projects or database) on the network are used as powerful tools to carry out PBL. In this paper, we will show some examples of medical resources on the network used in JAPAN. Besides, we introduce a distant learning (distant mini-symposium) experiment between the universities of different specialty (Medical school and School of Nutrition). This experiment was effective to raise the motivation of the students in both universities.

2. Network Environments and resources on the network

We provide a lot of Information outlet (RJ-45 type) to all lecture rooms, conference rooms, research laboratories or study rooms in our campus. IP address is controlled automatically by using DHCP (dynamic host configuration protocol). So, faculty staffs or students can access the campus network quite easily and use following resources to study medicine on the campus network or the Internet.

1) Database

Recently, many medical professions pay attentions to Evidence-based Medicine. The break through of the medical education in Japan is the gratuitous (free) disclosure of MEDLINE on the Internet. Even our university, many faculty staffs try to carry out PBL for the students by using MEDLINE (Pub-MED system). Unfortunately (?) to Japanese students, MEDLINE is written in English. So, students use the electronic dictionary tools or on Web (simplified) English Japanese part translation system (LSD project; life sciences dictionary database; <http://lsd.pharm.kyoto-u.ac.jp/index-J.html>). Now, Japanese medical database IGAKU CHUO ZASSHI is also available on the Internet (commercial-based, pay site). It is easily conceivable that the application of these databases play an important role to the improvement of education for medicine.

2) Multimedia projects

The multimedia projects on the network are easy to retrieve like database system. So, students show a strong interest to them. We are making an effort to develop new multimedia projects in our faculty or purchase the license of various commercial-based projects available on the network. In our university, students can access following multimedia projects by using campus network system.

i) An electronic library system

Students can retrieve the electronic dictionary of medicine, English-Japanese or KOJIEN (EPWING version, Concurrently 10 users for each dictionary) without installing any CD-ROM dictionaries for local PCs.

ii) Commercial-based multimedia projects for medical education in Japanese

Today's medical treatment, Internal medicine resident reference, Hyper clinical internal medicine, Super Hospital pediatrics, etc.

