The general internal medicine (GIM) consultation service sees many patients who are surgical, obstetrical, and require risk reduction – none of this is encapsulated all in any one “book” or easily in any one resource that we could find. Previously we had copied many of the journal articles for those areas that are within the discipline of GIM but not necessarily within the definition of internal medicine into one booklet. This had previously been a very popular booklet of information of the key information that defined the rotation.

With the advent of copyright law changes we were no longer able to give out this information in print. It seemed with the advent of the electronic age that access to this information could be improved. Thus, the assistance of the library was sought.

Libguides is a content management tool from Springshare (http://springshare.com/) that enables librarians to connect patrons with resources. Using Web 2.0 and mobile friendly technology, this tool enables the creation of online guides to targeted resources. For a review of Libguides, see Bushhouse.1 Each guide has a home page and additional pages on specific topics. A page consists of content boxes of various kinds, from simple rich text boxes with hyperlinks to boxes with RSS feeds, podcasts, images, YouTube videos, customized search boxes and more. At the University of Saskatchewan the University Library pays for a subscription to the LibGuide software.

The six GIM pages on the Clinical Medicine online guide (http://libguides.usask.ca/medicine) were created to facilitate access to required readings for the GIM resident rotations, in a manner that was compliant with copyright law. The content and structure was provided by the GIM faculty, and the librarian created the online guide in collaboration with a research assistant. While the content consists predominantly of

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**Summary**

The advent of copyright law changes made it difficult for the authors’ Division of General Internal Medicine to continue providing their internal medicine learners with a compilation of key articles on general internal medicine for the consultative rotation. This was seen as an opportunity for collaboration with the library to develop an online guide to key articles for general internal medicine. This guide has been very useful and well received by both faculty and learners.

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**Résumé**

La législation sur le droit d’auteur a compliqué la tâche des membres du Département de médecine interne générale, qui souhaitent continuer à fournir aux apprenants une compilation des principaux articles sur la médecine interne générale en vue des stages de consultation. Ils y ont vu l’occasion de collaborer avec la bibliothèque pour créer un guide en ligne des principaux articles en médecine interne générale. Ce guide très utile a été reçu avec enthousiasme aussi bien par les professeurs que par les apprenants.
There are journal articles, there are also links to guidelines, risk indicators, videos, e-books and medical apps. The main GIM page includes a description of GIM and the University of Saskatchewan GIM residency program, as well as links to resources on consultancy skills, and physical examination and procedures (Figure 1). There are five sub-pages specifically focused on perioperative, obstetrical medicine, risk reduction, landmark papers and the GIM journal club respectively (see Figure 2 for an example). To be compliant with copyright, direct links to the full-text or pdf versions of journal articles require authentication through the University of Saskatchewan library. Where such direct links were not permitted by the subscription license agreements, no hyperlink was inserted with the citation. A research assistant was hired to identify the stable URLs or digital object identifiers (DOIs) required to create a stable direct link for each article. Using PubMed, approximately 10 minutes per article was needed to create and verify a direct link. For the journal articles 95% of DOIs were easily found as they were recorded on the host site, or the host site provided the option to create a direct link on the page. The remaining 5% required searching multiple journal host sites or other search engines. Once all the direct links were identified, the librarian created the page structure within the online guide and added all the content. This last stage took about 2 hours.

Usage statistics are collected automatically by the Libguides.
application. Statistics for the September 1 to October 31, 2012 usage of the GIM pages of the Clinical Medicine Libguide are presented in Figure 3. To place these figures in context, at the time of the collection of the statistics there were five GIM faculty, twelve GIM residents, three GIM subspecialty residents and two medical students rotating through the GIM consultation service.

The users were asked to evaluate the GIM Lib Guide based on its perceived usefulness. This information is presented in Table 1.

The online guide is used a median of daily to weekly according to the survey of the pilot users. The online guide has been readily accepted and found to be much more useful than the old paper version.

**Table 1. How Useful Have You Found the GIM Online Guide? (14 respondents)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Useful</th>
<th>Quite Useful</th>
<th>A Little Bit Useful</th>
<th>Not at All Useful</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 (79 %)</td>
<td>3 (21 %)</td>
<td>0 (0 %)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference


![Figure 3. Page view counts for the six GIM pages from September 1, 2012, to October 31, 2012.](image)