Teaching information literacy
- for the benefit of the future profession and lifelong learning?

Background
The Faculty of Odontology at Malmö University in Sweden offers educational programs leading to a degree as dental hygienist, dentist, or dental technician. As librarians working at the Odontology Library, we conduct classes in information literacy for the students several times during their education. We also offer students and researchers private guidance in information searching. At the Faculty of Odontology, the PBL pedagogy is dominant, and the library’s classes in information literacy are well integrated in the student’s curricula.

Method
An online web survey was sent to 164 persons who graduated from the Faculty of Odontology at during the period 2005-2009. The survey consisted of 11 questions whereof 6 allowed comments. 97 persons (21 dental hygienists, 58 dentists and 18 dental technicians) responded which resulted in a response rate of 46%.

Aim
We wanted to know more about how graduate dentists, dental hygienists and dental technicians search for scientific information. A study was made to investigate to what information resources they have access, and how they experienced the information literacy training in retrospect. Our aim was to evaluate our teaching in information searching. Are the information literacy skills that the students acquired during their education useful in their daily work?

Evaluation of library instruction
- We have benefited from what we learned through the library’s instruction and guidance in our work. But lack of time often determines how often and where we search for information.
- We have forgotten some of what we learned. Refresher courses would be very useful!

Resources used at least once a month:
- colleagues 92%
- Google 74%
- books 57%
- journals 53%

PubMed is the most used database. Other databases (Cinahl, Cochrane, Science Direct, Sociological Abstracts and Web of Science) are rarely used.

Inform of the services libraries provide such as walk-in use to databases, interlibrary loans and book-lending

We as librarians have learned about “new” frequently used resources, such as The Social Insurance Agency and dental distributors.

More ideas!
- Refresher courses in information searching for alumni?
- Highlight medical open access journals
- Inform in what way free search engines or databases can be used for retrieving scientific information

79% of the respondents answer that they benefit from what they learned through the library’s instruction and guidance in their work.

Idea!
Refresher courses in information searching for alumni?