



HEALTH SCIENCES ONLINE

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HEALTH SCIENCES ONLINE

overview

Vision

- **To provide health professionals with free access to learning resources**

Resources

- **A comprehensive list of carefully selected current courses, references, and other materials from many sources**

Coverage

- **Health sciences broadly defined**

Scale

- **About 50,000 entries already collected**

Access

- **A portal with a custom-designed search engine**

Development pathway

- **Initiated planning: 2002; launch: Summer, 2008**



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HSEO organizational structure

Founding collaborators

- American College of Preventive Medicine; Centers for Disease Control; World Bank; World Health Organization; University of British Columbia

Advisory committee

- group of ~ 20 health leaders, educators, IT/communications experts
- meets every 3 months; reviews project design, milestones

Development team

- Support from governments (Canada, British Columbia, China); WHO; NATO

Legal and business team

- Issues: copyright; disclaimers; liability; license agreements

HSEO staff

- Core team: 2 fulltime, 6 parttime; Parttime volunteers: ~15



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HSO program development

Underway since 2002; launch Summer, 2008

Needs assessment

- Extensive surveys of health professionals in India, East Africa, Caribbean countries

Content team

- Content criteria based on published guidelines
- Areas: medicine, nursing, dentistry, public health, pharmaceutical sciences
- Quality and credibility; relevance of content; user friendly (searchable); open access; no marketing or advertising

Platform team

- IT outsourced to VIVISIMO (vivisimo.com), which designed the search engine; manages the platform; uploads materials
- Uploads ~400 URLs weekly; 50,000 in 2 years

Evaluation team

- Criteria include: site appearance; content; user surveys; comparisons with similar sites; strengths and weaknesses; expert evaluations