

THE NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY DIGITAL LIBRARY: A NOVEL APPROACH TO ADDRESSING THE INFORMATION NEEDS OF A HIGHLY SPECIALIZED MEDICAL COMMUNITY

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Abstract

Research and education in Neuro-ophthalmology relies heavily on the use of visual media. Using the latest standards and procedures in digital asset management and Web publishing, the NOVEL project collects and digitizes visual media elements, obtained during neuro-ophthalmic examinations, and redistributes them in a Web environment. The result is a centralized information resource for neuro-ophthalmology, which connects neuro-ophthalmology faculty, residents, and students with high quality resources at the point of need.

The Neuro-Ophthalmology Virtual Education Library (NOVEL) serves as a model for digital collection development in medical education. The project is made possible through collaboration with the National Association of Neuro-Ophthalmology (NANOS) and the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library. Its purpose is to develop digital assets in neuro-ophthalmology through the utilization of electronic publishing technologies, shared electronic resources, and the collective knowledge base of society members.

The presentation will outline the various components of the NOVEL project and how the materials are being used for lectures, demonstrations, and clinical research. Acquisition of the materials and resource development will be addressed, along with other project details, including the process by which medical professionals evaluate the resource by providing feedback via the Web for review by their society colleagues and the library development team.