

THE NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY VIRTUAL EDUCATION LIBRARY: A “NOVEL” APPROACH TO MEDICAL EDUCATION

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Introduction

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 a medical library and a professional medical society. 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.

Abstract

In the clinical setting, Neuro-ophthalmologists must diagnose neurovisual disorders based on visual observation of the eye. During a neuro-ophthalmic examination, these visual elements can be captured and digitized for use in education and research. Collection and redistribution of these materials in a Web environment, enables faculty, residents, and students to find and use visual examples of neuro-ophthalmologic problems in any location and in a variety of formats.

These materials can be viewed on the Web or downloaded to the desktop for use in lectures, demonstrations, and clinical research. Quality and reliability of materials is ensured through the establishment of a peer review process whereby a selected group of society members participate in evaluation of the NOVEL Web resource. These medical professionals provide feedback via a Web-based form and submit comments for review by other society members and the library development team.