



Development of an educational web platform to support practical training: The Veterinary Teaching & Learning Portal

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Introduction and Aim

With the specific aim to facilitate the learning of practical skills, the Department of Veterinary Medical Sciences (DIMEVET) of the University of Bologna (Italy) decided to develop a website with **multimedia educational contents**.

The site was intended to satisfy the needs of students to have free access to supplementary material in **support** of the **practical activities** connected to the courses and professional traineeship.

Materials and Methods

A web-based educational platform, called Veterinary Teaching & Learning Portal (**VETELP**), was implemented in **2010-2011** with internal funding for the improvement of education. The VETELP was developed with the open source content management system *Joomla!* and made **freely accessible** worldwide. All the **digital learning resources** have been realized on a **voluntary basis** by DIMEVET teachers drawing from daily professional and research activities, with the support of young vets with **dedicated scholarships**.

Results

REPRESENTATIVE SITE CONTENTS

CLINICAL SCIENCES

- ✓ Video gallery of Clinical Methodology: large and small animals physical examination.
- ✓ Video galleries for clinical practical skills.
- ✓ Video of surgical interventions and photo gallery of surgical equipment.
- ✓ Filterable photo gallery of Pathology images.
- ✓ Video gallery of perinatal mare and foal care.

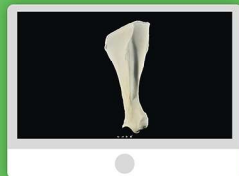


ANIMAL PRODUCTION

- ✓ Photo galleries of main canine and feline breeds, featuring student's dogs.
- ✓ Photo galleries of main equine, bovine, ovicaprine and swine breeds.
- ✓ Video gallery of the University dairy farm: animal husbandry and herd health management
- ✓ Forage/grain crops identification and formulation of feed rations.

BASIC SCIENCES

- ✓ Horse skeletal system: 3D animations of bones.
- ✓ Photo gallery of histological slides with matched illustrations.
- ✓ Pharmacology self-evaluation test.
- ✓ Photo gallery of plants toxic to animals.
- ✓ Photo galleries for Parasitology and Mycology.



FOOD SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

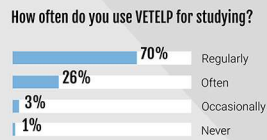
- ✓ Video and photo galleries of the University cheese factory.
- ✓ Photo gallery of post-mortem inspection at the University slaughterhouse.
- ✓ Students presentations for the Public Health traineeship: inspection of local farms.
- ✓ Video tutorials on how to access securely to laboratories and dissection rooms.



VETELP NUMBERS



STUDENTS SURVEY (2016)



WEB ANALYTICS (2012-today)



2,379,573 page views by 313,324 users
542,000 video visualizations
2,148 Facebook likes

Conclusions

VETELP is highly appreciated by students and the **EAEVE committee**, during the accreditation visit in 2014, has **recommended its preservation and maintenance**.

Looking at the future, after **6 years** the website needs major technical updates, should be enriched with **more transversal and interactive contents** and further integrated into educational activities.



[HTTP://PORTALEDIDATTICOVET.UNIBO.IT/](http://portaledidatticovet.unibo.it/)

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