Guidelines for the Design of Biochemistry Websites

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The internet is a means of communication that cannot be disregarded by contemporary educational systems. Public and private incentive policies aimed at the application of digital devices in the exchange of knowledge in and outside schools have been implemented in the last decades. However, risks posed by academic research on line are widely acknowledged with regard to the quality of information (Lourenço, 2010). One of the main aspects of this issue is the selection of reliable and potentially educational pages developed for specific target audiences. This study has the objective of providing guidelines for those who intend to develop sites, wiki pages, and educational PBwikis focused on Biochemistry, or even adapt existing ones. Considering the fact that there is no specific legislation for the use of the Internet in Brazil, it is necessary to stimulate self-regulation of the sector in order to establish minimum quality standards, safety, and reliability of sites containing information in the educational area. Thus, it is necessary to establish some parameters to help guiding research for educational purposes on the internet. To be a potentially didactic Biochemistry page, one must follow this set of orientation: clearly establish the target audience and, then, define the contents the proper way. Once the materials have been organized, establish, whenever possible and pertinent, links with references to professional and/ or research home pages, to Professional Associations in the Biochemistry field, among others. Link the page to an institutional research program, such as International Virtual Education Network, a program developed by the Brazilian Distance Education Department. Finally, it is necessary to provide interactive possibilities and dynamic images of the biochemical processes studied in class that will justify and differentiate the page from the many existing ones. Such procedures are essential to guarantee that online searches made for educational purposes find quality theoretical and pedagogical information.

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