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A web-based survey of 115 public health professionals in Montana noted a lack of not only using the Internet to retrieve research or medical information, but also an insufficient understanding of the process to complete such retrieval. Only ten percent of the participants reported having received training on information retrieval using the databases readily available to them.

After attending a short course (90 minutes) on the process to retrieve the material using the databases taught by academics that were experts in the area, increased usage and proficiency were noted. As public health moves towards a more evidence-based practice, these skills will be crucial skills in developing programs and interventions for the public. As this study and intervention were relatively low in cost and time commitment of employees, the research could easily be replicated in states with larger public health workforces.