INTRODUCTION

The daily life of a medical student in 2006 has become complex considering the amount of online resources available to students. Accessing many independent resources can be cumbersome if they are not all in a centralized location. Thus, each student needs a convenient way to manage resources to function effectively on a daily basis to balance a variety of needs—educational, community, and logistical.

At Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, two medical students designed and created a comprehensive website consolidating many resources to a central homepage for all Vanderbilt medical students. The result is the Vanderbilt Medical School (VMS) Portal (Figure 1). The VMS Portal provides a customized user experience and comprehensive educational, community, and logistical resources for medical students and faculty. Today the VMS Portal is accessed daily by the entire medical school community.

 SITE USAGE

The VMS Portal is used as a daily resource by many medical students. In addition to the numerous visits to the login page, Table 1 shows the number of VMS Portal logins per day.

 CONCLUSION

The VMS Portal has been embraced by the medical student community as a daily homepage. The VMS Portal continues to evolve as new features are added in response to student requests and feedback. The involvement of medical students in the design and feedback of the VMS Portal has been invaluable. The success of the VMS Portal has been a result of its student design, support of the administration, and relevance to medical student needs.

Figure 1. VMS Portal Homepage

Figure 2. Custom survey results examples

Figure 3. Sales categories

Figure 4. VMS Portal Sales Link book selling form