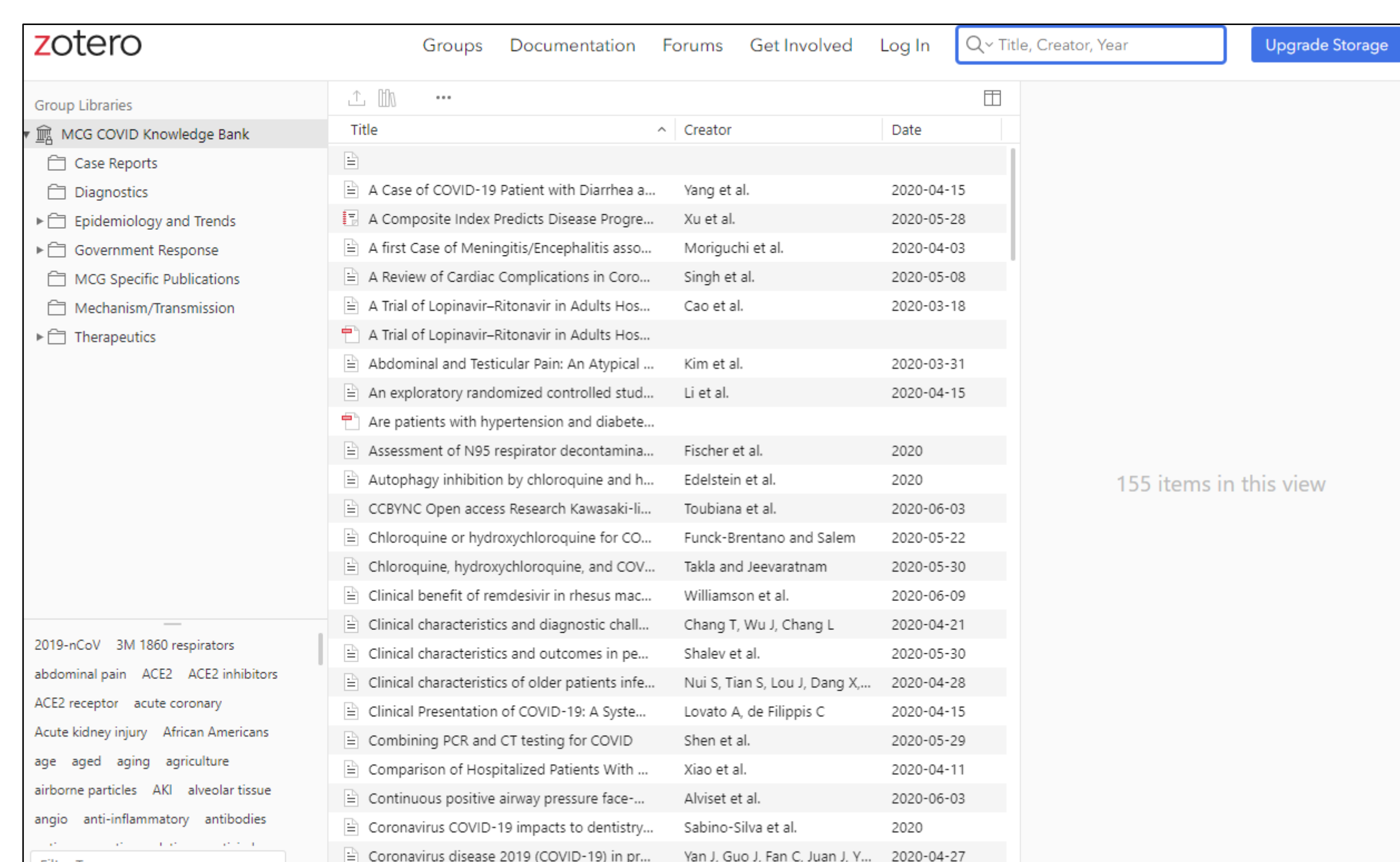


## OBJECTIVES

- Two librarians contributed to a new graduate medical school elective course developed dynamically during the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## METHODS

- Within a month of the COVID-19 outbreak, clerkship rotations at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) at Augusta University were canceled due to the pandemic.
- A four-week Pandemic Medicine elective was proposed to provide opportunities for medical students to participate in service learning and contribute to pandemic response efforts.
- The Assistant Director for Research & Education Services at the Greenblatt Library attended a clerkship curriculum committee meeting where the course was proposed. Afterwards, the librarian contacted the elective organizers and offered to contribute.
- The leaders and faculty members who proposed the elective suggested five areas of focus: information services; mental health and wellness; PPE taskforce; supporting medical education; and telemedicine. The librarians offered to assist with the information services component.



Zotero knowledge base designed by medical students



The website designed by the students in the course

## The Augusta Chronicle

### MCG students web site aims to inform on COVID-19 and aid public

By Tom Corwin

Posted Jul 14, 2020 at 4:21 PM

Medical College of Georgia students have created a web site to help inform the public about COVID-19 and provide credible information.

Elena Diller and Krishna Shah can't really see patients right now because of the COVID-19 pandemic but that hasn't stopped them from reaching out and trying to help.

The two second-year students at Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University are part of a team that has created and is keeping up daily a web site to help inform the public about COVID-19 and the conditions in the Augusta area.

"We felt, being second year medical students and not being able to have any sort of direct patient contact, this is the next best thing for us to work on," Diller said.

"We feel like it is our duty as medical students to help in any way we can," Shah said. "Since we are not fully trained doctors, something we can help the public with is information."

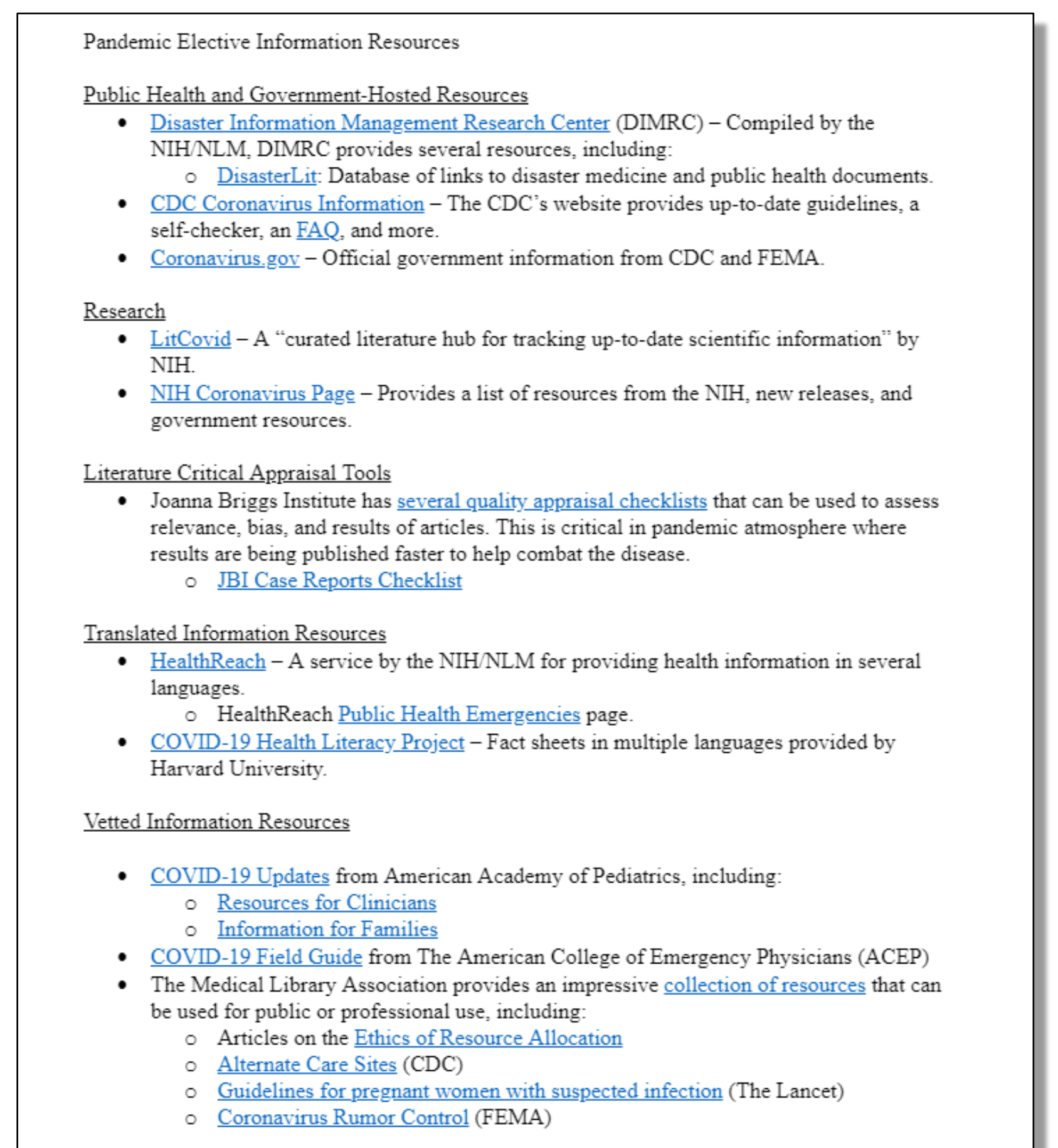
News article discussing the students' website

## RESULTS

- Both the Assistant Director for Research & Education Services and the Clinical Information Librarian were invited to serve as faculty advisors for the students leading the information services aspects of the elective. Much of the elective was student-driven, including daily COVID-19 and news updates, which were followed by lectures by faculty subject experts.
- The librarians attended weekly planning meetings with the information services group leaders, compiled lists of trustworthy resources for the students to consult, and performed literature searches.
- The students chose to create relevant infographics in multiple languages, produce "mythbusters" information about COVID-19, develop a knowledge base from the literature using Zotero, and post a portal website. The website houses all the student-created content, along with local and national statistics about COVID-19. The website received recognition in the local press and university communication channels.

## CONCLUSIONS

- Librarians were successfully integrated into a medical school elective course developed in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The librarians were able to demonstrate their value to both students and faculty by providing information, insight, and support to the students as needed.
- The website is still being maintained by MCG students, and the elective has been turned into a permanent "selective" course.



Initial list of resources the librarians collected for the course

## REFERENCES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Corwin, Tom. "MCG students web site aims to inform on COVID-19 and aid public." *The Augusta Chronicle*, 14 July 2020, <https://www.augustachronicle.com/news/20200714/mcg-students-web-site-aims-to-inform-on-covid-19-and-aid-public>
- MCG COVID Response*. Augusta University, 2020, <https://www.mcgcovidresponse.com>. Accessed 2 Nov. 2020.
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