Information Literacy Request

- Anth 4307: Global and Public Health

Throughout the semester, we worked on a term project that involved us identifying a health solution that has been successful in another context, such as a developing country, and adapting and applying the solution to a new context, like Dallas. We had to design an evaluation to test this solution on the desired population. The first stage of the paper was a 5-7 page research paper due halfway through the semester, and then the final project was a 10-12 page research paper due at the end of the semester.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to select and use the appropriate research methods and search tools for needed information.

For this assignment, we were required to gather information from numerous sources. Some sources needed to be from developing countries, while others needed to be studies conducted here in the U.S. My paper focused on task shifting cognitive behavioral therapy to residents in nursing homes to treat depression among the elderly. The argument was set up by using general information about the prevalence of depression provided by the World Health Organization and The Geriatric Mental Health Foundation. Then, the paper focused on CBT performed in developing countries, such as Uganda. Finally, the effectiveness of CBT was looked at in the U.S. in a study conducted at Vanderbilt University. These studies were found by using
the SMU Online Library search engine, or pulling studies from texts that we read in class. In addition to looking at what the literature said about the topic, we also were required to reach out to the target population and gather feedback on our idea. I spoke to several individuals in a nursing home, and then I used the feedback that they provided to modify and enhance my intervention.

- Students will be able to evaluate sources for quality of information for a given information need.

All of the statistics that I used came from reputable sources such as the World Health Organization. For the studies, I made sure to use randomized controlled trials because I wanted to be able to demonstrate a causal, rather than correlational relationship, between CBT and decreased depression rates. For example, I used a study conducted in rural Uganda where the therapy intervention was randomly assigned to 15/30 of the villages participating in the study. All of the studies were published in peer-reviewed medical or psychology journals.