

Librarian/Faculty Collaboration to Improve MSN Students Ability to Locate EBP Information

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Objective: Students in the pediatric and family nurse practitioner didactic pediatric courses have numerous assignments requiring literature searches to identify current EBP information about diagnosis and treatment of pediatric conditions encountered in clinical practice. In past semesters this requirement has been frustrating for students and time consuming for the instructor and librarian. This collaborative exercise was developed to improve search skills, efficiency in locating quality current information, and to assist them to become life long learners.

Methods: At the beginning of the semester the librarian attends both the Family Nurse Practitioner 1 (FNP) and the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner 1 (PNP) classes to discuss relevant databases, and search strategies. This year the librarian was provided a copy of the search assignments. Students are encouraged to contact the librarian for assistance as needed. The PNP class would in addition have the librarian attend their class weekly to answer any questions related to the searches. PNP students were required to turn in at least 3 search strategies and were encouraged to turn in all strategies. The librarian reviewed the strategies.

Results: The PNP students and the FNP students both utilized the services of the college librarian via email, phone and office visits. The PNP students contacted the librarian more frequently and their questions were more focused and specific. The articles retrieved by the PNPs were judged to be of higher quality overall than those retrieved by the FNPs.

Conclusions: The PNP students have displayed less frustration than the FNP students, the research that they have identified has been excellent, and they have shown improvement in their ability to develop search strategies utilizing subject heading, sub-headings, and other advanced search techniques. Suggestions for improving the process will be solicited at the end of the course.

References

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