What is Occupational Therapy as a Profession? Why Is It Important?

“A rehabilitative profession that focuses on possibilities for improvement and recovery, independence and health maintenance”

- evolving definition, e.g., interdependence, community, reciprocal obligations, harmonious relationships

- OT centennial celebration in 2017

“Thus, one way to come to understand the meaning of a situation to a person...is to take the time to learn about the person’s life history and experiences. Out of a person’s stories about the past comes the meaning of the present.”

(Hasselkus, 2011)
Why Are You Here?

You are the researcher now

No longer only a vessel to be filled with your professors’ knowledge

No longer only a student but also *part of the academic & scholarly conversation about your profession*

Apply the research methods to your interests and passions within OT to

- Expand the knowledge and scope of this profession
- Apply them in clinical practice

Look at a piece of information and see what is *not* there
Research and Everyday Life

Seeds of research lie in the real world

Popular magazines

Everyday happenings are chronicled in popular media
  ◦ Blogs
  ◦ Newspapers
  ◦ Newsletters
  ◦ Social media
Why the Library?

“In the fields of observation, chance favors only the prepared mind”

(Louis Pasteur, en.wikiquote.org)

Prepare your mind for the path towards a scientist and researcher

Help you to notice things, recognize opportunities or ideas

Choose the right tool for the job
Levels of Research

1) Quick look-up AKA “googling it”

2) Consumer research

3) Subject specific, professional research
Popular and Scholarly Literature

Popular literature
◦ more accessible (reading level, education)
◦ more widely read by the general public
◦ more people are touched by it

Does popular literature have value in professional research?

Does research-based literature have more value?
Substantive Journals

- **Substantive**
  
  - May be attractive in format and have pictures and advertisements
  - May cite sources, but usually not
  - Articles may or may not be signed by the author
  - Language level may be simple, but not necessarily
  - Purpose is to provide information to a broad, educated audience
  - Target audience is reading at ~12th grade level
  - e.g. *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Psychology Today*
Discovery Databases

Esearch

EBSCO PowerSearch

ProQuest PowerSearch
Internet Search Engines- All the Same?

Google

DuckDuckGo -

standardmedia.co.ke

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