Ethics & Research Methods for Physician Assistants – PAS 670

Elizabeth Bucciarelli,
Health Sciences Librarian
103-G Halle Library. EMU. ebucciare@emich.edu 734.487-2506
To him who devotes his life to science, nothing can give more happiness than increasing the number of discoveries, but his cup of joy is full when the results of his studies immediately find practical applications” - Louis Pasteur
Library Research Support

- **In-Person Drop-In**
  - Information & Reference Desk
  - Academic Projects Center

**Phone** - Information & Reference Desk: 734.487.2445

**Email** - Submit your question and get an email response from EMU librarians

**Librarian Subject Specialists appointments** -
- [http://www.emich.edu/library/about/specialist.php](http://www.emich.edu/library/about/specialist.php) - General list of subject specialists

**Online Help 24/7 – “Ask a Librarian”**
- 24/7, real-time research help is available from EMU librarians and partner librarians from other schools
Support Services for Student Research

**Academic Projects Center (APC)**

- **Rm. 116 Halle Library**
- Includes a *Presentation Practice Room*
- [https://www.emich.edu/apc/](https://www.emich.edu/apc/)

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**University Writing Center (UWC)**

- **Rm. 115 Halle Library**
- [http://www.emich.edu/uwc](http://www.emich.edu/uwc)
Levels of Research

1) Quick look-up AKA “googling it”

2) Consumer research

3) Subject specific, professional research
Tips for Successful Research

- Use a variety of resources
- Keep a research journal
- Be open to learning more about research & tools
- Give yourself time to research properly
- Be prepared to be surprised
- Be persistent
- Ask for help from your professor, a librarian, etc.
Research Journal

- Research can be intermittent; bookmark where to begin
- Records decisions & justifications for pursuing one course of study over another
- Reflections and thoughts on the process
- Sometimes viewed as private, others view it as a work to share
- “Judgment free zone”
- Keeps you constantly writing – both formal & colloquial
Keeping it Together
The Research Journal

- Record, record, record
  - Ideas for topics; track your thinking processes; points of inspiration
  - Databases searched
  - Web sites searched
  - Summary of search results
  - Evaluate successes & failures
  - Search strategies
  - Keywords, terms, subject headings
  - Conversations
  - People you want to contact

- Methods – Google document; written document; MS document
- Use it consistently
Research Journal – Citation Management Tools

- **Zotero** – free
  - [http://guides.emich.edu/zotero](http://guides.emich.edu/zotero)
- **EndNote** – free (to EMU) via the *Web of Science* database
- **EndNote, RefWorks** – you must purchase
- **Apps** – see your device’s app store
Medical & Health Article Research Databases

- CINAHL
- Cochrane Library
- Google Scholar
- Health Source: Nursing/Academic
- Health Source: Consumer Edition
- PsycINFO
- PubMed/Medline
- Web of Science
APA Manual Sources


- Reserve Reference at Halle Circulation Desk – BF 76.6 .P82

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html
Types of Journals

**Popular**
- Slick and attractive in appearance
- Rarely cite sources
- Written by staff or free-lance writers; may or may not list the author
- Language level is simple
- Main purpose is to entertain or to convey general information
- Target audience is reading at ~7th grade level
  - e.g. *People Weekly*

**Substantive**
- May be attractive in format and have pictures and ads
- 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*
# Types of Journals

## Trade
- Purpose is to keep a specific industry current re: news, trends, industry changes, people
- Contains advertising focused on the industry
- Pictures, charts, and ads abound
- Articles are normally signed
- No official bibliography at the end of articles
- Trade jargon is used
- ~12\textsuperscript{th} grade reading level

## Scholarly
- Sober in tone
- Pictures, charts and graphs used only to explain the content of the article, not to entertain
- Sources are always cited
- Articles are signed by a scholar or researcher
- Language is elevated and assumes familiarity with the jargon of the discipline
- May be published by a professional organization or university
  - e.g., JAMA, JAAPA, AJN
A journal which requires that, prior to publication, submitted articles be approved by a board in order to evaluate the quality, validity, reliability of the article.

This review process is often done ‘blind’, that is, the reviewers do not know the name or academic affiliations of the authors, and the authors do not know who is reviewing their work.

Check the journal title in *Ulrich’s Global Serials Directory*

Comparing clinician use of three ankle fracture classifications.

Authors: Cordova, Christopher B.; Dunn, John C.; Kusnezov, Nicholas; Bader, Julia M.; Waterman, Brian R.; Orr, Justin D.

Affiliation: Practices in the musculoskeletal service at Evans Army Community Hospital in Fort Carson, Colo.


Publication Type: Article - research, tables/charts

Language: English

Major Subjects: Ankle Fractures -- Classification ; Ankle Fractures -- Radiography ; Orthopedic Care ; Professional Knowledge -- Evaluation ; Military Personnel

Minor Subjects: Human; Interrater Reliability; Physician Assistants; Descriptive Statistics; Data Analysis Software; Confidence Intervals; Interprofessional Relations; Kappa Statistic

Abstract: Purpose: This study evaluated the accuracy and interrater reliability of US Army physician assistants (PAs) in identifying ankle fracture patterns using existing classification schemes. Methods: Twenty-eight PAs reviewed criteria for stability, Danis-Weber, and Lauge-Hansen ankle fracture classification systems. Participants reviewed 45 ankle radiographs and independently rated each radiograph using these classification schemes. Results: Participants were able to successfully identify ankle fracture stability in 82.1% of cases (95% CI, 77.6, 86.6) with established criteria. Using the Danis-Weber classification, accurate classification was achieved in 77.8% of cases (95% CI, 72.8, 82.7). The Lauge-Hansen classification system was least reliable, with accuracy of 54.5% (95% CI, 46, 63). Conclusion: Referring PAs can reliably discern unstable ankle fractures in more than 80% of cases. Lauge-Hansen classification was significantly less accurate than the DanisWeber system or criteria for stability. Good communication between orthopedic surgeons and PAs and an emphasis on PA orthopedic education can improve patient care.

Journal Subset: Allied Health; Double Blind Peer Reviewed; Editorial Board Reviewed; Expert Peer Reviewed; Peer Reviewed; USA

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/01.JAA.0000529773.90897.9f
eBook Collections

- AccessMedicine
- R2 Digital Collection
- Stat!Ref
# Ways to Search a Database

## Keyword / Free Text Searching

- **Most common way to search**
- **Searches the selected words anywhere in the text of the record**
- **Searches most fields**

## Subject Heading Searching

- Subject headings are words that are used by the database to describe the content of an article or other information.
- Also known as descriptors, headings, or index terms, and they are usually available within each database under links such as "thesaurus," "headings," or "subjects."
- They are the ‘controlled vocabulary’ used to establish order and provide access points for articles & other information.
  - e.g. sensory regulatory disorder, sensory regulatory dysfunction, sensory processing disorder, sensory integrative disorder, sensory integration disorder/dysfunction
  - SH=sensory integrative dysfunction
Combining Sets

\[ \text{AND} = \text{Intersection} \]

\[ \text{OR} = \text{Union} \]
Appraising Evidence

A³BCD

- Authority
- Accuracy
- Audience
- Bias/Objectivity
- Currency
- Design (web page only)
  - Functionality
  - Format & appearance

http://guides.emich.edu/a3bcd
Cited Reference Searching – Looking Forward & Backward in the Research Literature

- Cited reference searching is a tool to track how a given work is cited by other works, journal articles, books, etc. (https://library.upei.ca/citedrefsearch)
- Begin with a citation for an item you have read and then search for more recent publications that have cited your item
- Help resources for looking backward & forward in the literature
  - Demonstration video: https://emich.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=ee556b44-86ee-4c14-a781-494c993ee095
- Databases for cited reference searching:
  - Google Scholar
  - Web of Science

Ebucciarelli 1/2019