Health Sciences Library Partners with Community Colleges for Needs Assessment and Interactive Tutorial in Geriatric Education

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Objectives:
- Build collaborative relationships between the Health Sciences Library, UNC Institute on Aging, and local community colleges
- Perform a health information and geriatric education needs assessment of nursing students in two community colleges
- Create a plan of action for a future training module incorporating NLM resources such as MedlinePlus and NIHSenior Health and other geriatric clinical resources.

Participants:
Durham Technical Community College and Central Carolina Community College (CCCC). Both community colleges have Nursing programs and Occupational Therapy programs with an emphasis on geriatric education.

CCCC is located in Sanford, Lee County, in a rural area (26% Hispanic and 28% Black or African American).
Durham Technical Community College is located in Durham County and is a more urban setting (14% Hispanic and 41% Black or African American) (US Census, 2010).

Methods
For Phase 1 of the project, a health sciences librarian created two separate surveys, one for faculty and one for students. Both surveys were distributed in print and electronic format with consent forms. A total of 165 student surveys and 16 faculty surveys were received and completed.

Results
Students use various online resources for their classes. Figure 1 shows that the majority of students use Google, MedlinePlus, PubMed, and Wikipedia as their top five online resources. The use of Wikipedia goes down the longer they are in school (17 students use it their first semester, while only 5 use it on their 4th and 5th semester). Therefore, those who have been in school longer use more scholarly databases.

Interest in different types of learning activities changes depending on which semester they are in. Figure 2 shows that third semester students (28) are more interested in case studies, while first semester students (17) are interested in tutorials.

Other figures and comments:
- 86% of students stated that they learn better with hands-on activities
- 94% access resource information online with their personal computer
- 60% access resource information online with their phone

Students comments included:
- “We want more computer simulation tools…”
- “…tutorials”
- “…promote online resources”
- “role playing, hands on and interactive”

Next Steps
After analyzing the survey results and our conversations with the community colleges, we applied for another NLM outreach award for phase two of this project. Phase two will consist of creating interactive tutorials/modules with case studies.