

# **Mixing up an Allied Health Liaison Program: Ingredients for a Successful Allied Health Collection Appetizer**

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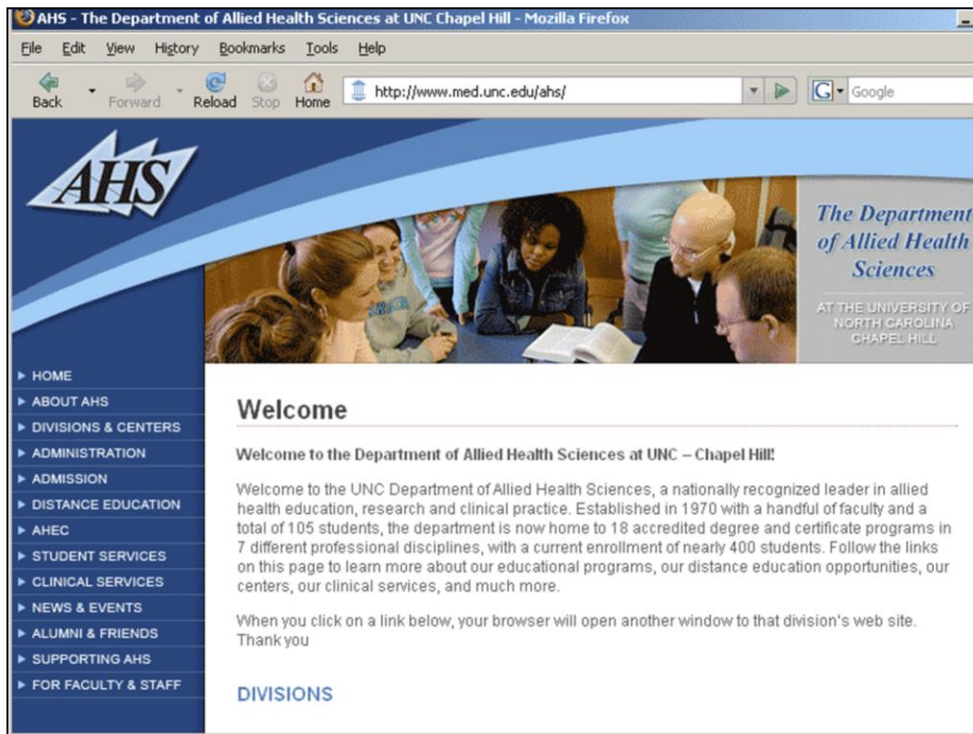
## March, 2007

Librarian deployed for initial 3-4 month special assignment

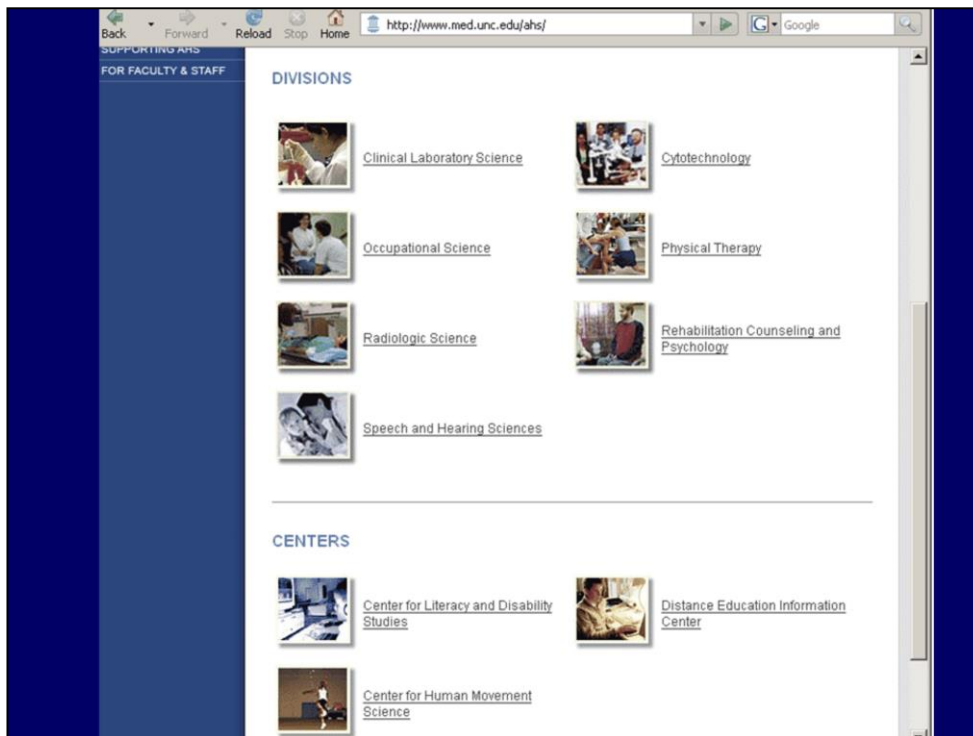
- To conduct an environmental scan
- To explore the library support needs of the Department of Allied Health Sciences
- To train as a liaison

## Project Background

- School of Medicine: 27 departments served by 1 liaison
- Other liaisons assisted in AHS, upon request, to teach classes and provide consultations
- Not much known about status of department or of collection
  - Small amount of end-of-year funding available for collection needs
  - Specific materials had to be identified quickly in order to use available funds



Today, the Department is nationally recognized and many of its programs are ranked among the top in their fields. The department now has 18 accredited degree and certificate programs in 7 different professional disciplines. It has a faculty of about 100 and a student body of nearly 400. It is poised to grow rapidly in the future and is currently preparing a feasibility study for becoming its own school, independent of the School of Medicine. Its focus is shifting from primarily training entry level professionals to turning out more advanced practice professionals and academic and scholarly leaders.













## Objective:

To initiate a collection development effort

for an underserved unit of the School of Medicine  
-- the Department of Allied Health Sciences –

prior to formal launch of a liaison program

## Collection Development Project Methods

- Sent emails to Chair/Associate Dean & 7 Division Heads seeking recommendations for
  - Key materials for purchase
  - Key web sites
  - Top 5 journals
  - Online book collections or titles
- Follow-up emails sent to 3 non-respondents @ 4 weeks

**By Division Head, within a month, following discussion at faculty meetings**

**Included additional, unrelated requests** (e.g., assistance with copyright issues or faculty multimedia equipment needs).

**Individually followed up**

Thanks; information about making future collection requests

Availability of materials recommended & HSL process for making decisions

Continued follow up about decisions & e-journal access issues


## Key Materials Recommended by Department

- 19 books
- 9 DVD's
- 1 VHS video
- 6 CD's
- 5 specialized software items
  - Boardmaker and SALT for Speech and Hearing Sciences—under discussion
  - Anatomy software, web sites, or tutorials with radiographs and case correlations

Books, DVD's, VHS video all purchased

Given # of core multimedia resources identified:

HSL looking into re-opening a software lab



LIBRARY

## Public Health Practice

This resource collection was developed by the Health Sciences Library for North Carolina public health providers and administrators.

<b>Public Health Information Portals</b> American Public Health Association - APHA Health Services Research & Public Health Information Program Medscape Public Health & Prevention Homepage Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce	<b>Brief Guides to Resources</b> North Carolina Statistics Current United States Health Statistics Health Policy and Administration International Health Internships and Service Opportunities Latino Health Information for Health Care Providers
<b>UNC Centers &amp; Programs</b> Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research Public Health Grand Rounds Carolina School of Public Health	<b>In-Depth Online Tutorials</b> Finding Health-Related Statistics Finding Health Law and Legislative History Finding Health Information Evaluating Online Information
<b>Community Assessment Tools</b> Public Health Papers Community Assessment Guide Book	<b>Literature Databases</b> PubMed (MEDLINE) Environmental Sciences and Pollution

1 division=18 websites, including REHABDATA, NARIC, several evidence based practice...(Rehab Counseling & Psychology Division). Working with division faculty to put together a special collection/guide such as this one to include websites, recommended databases and ejournals, recommended tutorials, other resources.

## Among “Top 5” journals were those that

- We did not have (either electronically or in print)
  - Adding electronically, if available, print if not
- We had in print (but not electronically )
  - Adding electronically, if available, print if not

All divisions responding named between 5 and 10 top journals in their fields

All divisions named the same journals for faculty & for students

All divisions requested electronic access if available

If electronic access was **not** available, divisions requested print **at the Health Sciences Library**

Note to 1<sup>st</sup> category: also 1 we didn't have electronically or print that Main library had print only. They have agreed to add electronic access out of their budget (Rehab Counseling and Psych area).

## Among “Top 5” journals were those that

- Main campus Library (not HSL) had in print that we could not add electronically
  - Policy generally precludes duplication
  - Exploring options
- We had “incidentally” electronically
  - Upgraded to stable electronic subscription



## Non-Collection Development Outcomes

Upon announcing the liaison program (June):

- Liaison given immediate access to Chair and Admins
- Chair expanded June Advisory Meeting to ½ day retreat
  - Hosted in the library
  - Introduction of and presentation by liaison
  - Tour of facilities; focus on technology enhanced spaces

Chair wrote back to me within 5 minutes

Chair spent 2 hours meeting with Liaison to hear more about the liaison program and to share upcoming plans

Including expansion of Allied Health (new areas such as polysomnography; pressure for new PA program) and study of feasibility of becoming a school separate from SOM

Library tour during retreat focused on technology enhanced spaces:

Collaboration Center with access grid and visualization wall

Media Design Studios

Classrooms

Conference Rooms

Videoconferencing capabilities

Small Group Study Rooms, many with computers and flat screen projection

## Following June Chair's retreat:

- Increased AHS use of facilities and services
- Requests & invitations by division heads
- New requests for HSL course involvement
- Collaboration on HSL Exhibit  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PT Program

Increased use: space, particularly technology enhanced spaces such as collaboration center and media design studios and small group collaboration spaces

Requests by division heads include:

DH meetings with Liaison to discuss division plans

Requests for involvement of liaison in a variety of training/education opportunities

**Collection development undertaken  
*prior to* launching a liaison program  
can be an effective way to...**

- build the collection
- learn about unique needs
- allow liaison to build a positive partnership with key faculty and administrators
- collect information to assist in decision-making
- launch a new liaison program on a positive note

Please contact me if you serve as a liaison (or do similar outreach) for Allied Health fields. I would love to share information and learn from your experiences, too.

Thank you!

Questions or comments?