SPHSC 500 - Autumn 2009
Clinical Methodology for Documenting Change
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Assignment #1
Finding Existing Evidence

Assignment Objective: This assignment has two parts: 1) Using the UW Library Data Bases and 2) Finding evidence regarding speech and language treatments. Part 1 is designed to introduce you to the UW Library research resources. It is meant as an exercise to get you "deep" into searching for scholarly articles that will be used in learning about evidence-based practice in speech-language pathology. Part 2 is designed to introduce you to evidence based practice, specifically finding evidence for treatment recommendations and then for treatment planning. As a clinician you need to know how to integrate evidence into practice: a) formulate a question, b) find the best current evidence, c) summarize evidence quality, d) decide whether this evidence should change your practice, and d) integrate evidence with clinician and client values, preferences and experiences. This part of assignment 1 will get you started in searching, finding, and evaluating evidence as we consider recommendations following an initial assessment.

Part 1: Using the UW Library Data Bases
Student objectives: Students will demonstrate that they can:
- Search UW library databases for scholarly articles on a specific topic
- Save documentation of the search process (key words plus results)
- Save abstracts and citations of appropriate articles

Task: Assignment Steps
1. Take the online tutorial entitled "Research 101" at the following URL: http://www.lib.washington.edu/uwill/research101/. The computers in the Speech & Hearing Clinic computer lab will run this tutorial successfully, although you will have to permit pop ups for some pages to function properly. If you are running the tutorial from any other location, you may need to install Adobe Acrobat Reader and Macromedia Flash Player and, as above, permit pop ups. In order to prepare yourself best for later assignments, be sure to go through all sections of the tutorial. Some may seem simplistic, but will be worth reviewing. Do the exercises and take the quizzes.

2. Familiarize yourself with the "How do I" web page on the Library web site at http://www.lib.washington.edu/help/howdoi/ particularly the "Research/Find Materials" section. At a minimum, you will need to know the following:
    a) Choosing the best databases for your purpose (i.e. search engines). Make sure you are familiar with each of the following:

1. Available at: http://www.lib.washington.edu/types/databases/
    1. ·   Expanded Academic ASAP
    2. ·   ProQuest
    3. ·   Web of Science
2. Available at:
    http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/SpeechHearing/
    1. ·   PubMed
    2. ·   PsychInfo

b) How to conduct your search and to modify it as necessary for best results. Each database uses different "syntax" for compiling a search, so I recommend that you read/view any available tutorials.

c) How to document your search process (saving and exporting or printing search terms and the results)

d) How to obtain copies of journal articles, either electronic or in print

e) How to export citation data and cite resources properly in a paper (Speech & Hearing literature uses "APA style")

3. **Bring your notes and come to class on <u>10/15</u> prepared to discuss <u>(NO paper submission for this part)</u>**

a. How searching a library journal database is similar to and/or different from searching the internet with Google. Have specifics in mind for the discussion.

b. How to tell the difference between scholarly work and other articles

c. How to conduct an advanced search on at least one database listed above

d. How to document your search process on at least one database listed above

Part 2: Finding Evidence

Assignment Objective: This part of the assignment is designed to introduce you to finding and evaluating evidence for making recommendations after diagnosis and for planning treatment. As a clinician you need to know how to integrate evidence into practice: a) formulate a question, b) find the best current evidence, c) summarize evidence quality, d) decide whether this evidence should change your practice, and d) integrate evidence with clinician and client values, preferences and experiences. For this assignment, we are going to stay rather broad, looking for evidence in regards to general treatment recommendations.

Student objectives: Students will demonstrate that they can:
- Find a review article or summary of evidence
- Identify 1 scholarly article addressing the benefits of treatment in speech-language pathology
- Read and save the abstract and citation of the 1 article that was found.

- Evaluate the level of evidence and discuss the degree of faith one might have about the treatment

Task: Assignment Steps
EVIDENCE FOR MAKING RECOMMENDATION – SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

1. Conduct a search to find a systematic review of evidence that applies in some way to a client you are assessing/evaluating. (If you are not seeing a client at this time, develop a hypothetical client). Select an area that will inform your treatment recommendations in some way. Remember systematic reviews answer broad questions.

Where to find systematic reviews on the Web

Cochrane Collaboration
http://www.cochrane.org/reviews/clibintro.htm

Campbell Collaboration
http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/

ASHA
http://www.asha.org/members/ebp/compendium/

What Works Clearinghouse (US Department of Education)
http://www.w-w-c.org/

Psychological Database for Brain Impairment Treatment Efficacy
http://www.psycbite.com

National Electronic Library for Health (Specialist Library - ENT and Audiology)
http://libraries.nelh.nhs.uk/ent

Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders & Sciences
http://nicds.org/   (see Practice Guidelines)

A Helpful site: (but note it was last updated in 2002)
http://www.mnsu.edu/comdis/efficacy/article.html

Also: Pub Med (library database) - "clinical Queries", "Find Syst Reviews", search topic (e.g., aphasia)

2. Briefly describe your client and the major concern for his/her communication. Then state your question and describe the search you conducted. Once you have found your relevant systematic review or practice

guidelines, provide the complete citation for it and give a brief description of the findings. Finally, state the conclusion you reached about the evidence. We will discuss this part in class on **October 20.**

EVIDENCE FOR MAKING PLANNING TREATMENT – EVIDENCE FOR A SPECIFIC TREATMENT

3. **Search for 1 scholarly article on a specific treatment package/technique/approach related to question/topic on which you did your systematic review**
Based on the review or guidelines obtained from #1, further search a specific strategy/intervention/treatment technique by finding 1 scholarly, experimental article that provides evidence for the benefits of this treatment. Look for the best evidence you can find. Describe your search.
        Use one or more of these databases, learned in your library search exercise - or other search engines (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/) to find your scholarly article: :
            Available at: http://www.lib.washington.edu/types/databases/
            Expanded Academic ASAP
            ProQuest
            Web of Science
        Available at:
        http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/SpeechHearing/
            PubMed
            PsychInfo
4.   Find the article. You should read the abstract and read as much of the methods to see what type of design was used and an idea of the treatment   Based on what you find: cite the reference for the scholarly article (author, date, name of article, journal volume, pages), using the title of the paper, the abstract and your "skimming" provide the name of the treatment technique, briefly describe it, and finally evaluate and present in your own words the evidence that was presented in the scholarly article (based only on the title and abstract):
    Consider and address:
        1) What level of evidence is represented by this article, in your opinion based only on the title and abstract?
        2) What specific words in the title/abstract/article have led you to your conclusion about the evidence?
        3) Given the level of evidence, what did you conclude about the treatment and its potential usefulness to you as a clinician?

Submission: The written assignment is ONLY for Part 2 of this assignment Tasks 1-4). We will discuss your findings in class and you will submit your paper. The written submission should contain the following information (fully described above):

1, (Tasks 1 and 2 above) Briefly describe your client, area of concern, and write your question/topic. Describe your search and provide the citation for the review that you found regarding the topic (you must be clear where you found this review-provide sufficient information such that I could find it). Write a brief description of what you found and the conclusion you reached about the evidence.

2. (Tasks 3 and 4 above) Describe your search. Provide the complete citation for the scholarly article you found. Tell me where/how you found the article.   Name and describe the treatment technique and evidence that was presented. What level of evidence is this? How convinced were you about the benefits of the treatment – DO NOT PROVIDE A CRITIQUE OF THE RESEARCH.   Attach the abstract, including the complete citation for the article.

Format: Typed, double spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins, 2-3 pages of narrative + actual abstract

Grading: This assignment is worth **20** points (10 points Part 2 Tasks 1-2; 10 points Part 2 Tasks 3-4). Grading will be based on:

- Focus on **completeness**, clarity, and logic/organization – DON'T over interpret the findings.
- Focus on writing that is shows good: paragraph and sentence level organization and structure in regards to grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary/semantics, neatness.

Due Date: Part 1: Discuss in class **October 15 – no paper work for this part**; Part 2: Tasks 1 and 2, Evidence for Recommendations, discussed in class on **October 20**. Part 2: Tasks 3 and 4, Evidence for Planning Treatment discussion in class **October 22**. Submission of final, complete paper (Part 2: Tasks 1-4) due **October 22.**