

## Faculty of Health Sciences

### PBHL 306 A: Library and Literature Search Skills (0 Credits)

#### Syllabus

Fall 2023-24

#### **Workshop description**

A 2-day hands-on compulsory workshop for all MPH students where learners acquire search skills to look for, identify, read, evaluate and save their literature searches in order to write a synthesis for their academic work. The workshop trains learners on the use of major resources at the University libraries (search engines, databases,...), search techniques, and the use of databases to search, store and save searches. It also provides them with skills to evaluate the extracted information, synthesize the literature and identify a gap. Based on this, they write-up a short synthesis of a selection of relevant literature.

**Pre-requisites:** None

#### **Facilitators:**

AUB Libraries and Dr Judy Makhoul from FHS to coordinate the workshop.

**Time:** Fall semester (September 18 and 22) concurrently with PBHL 310 Public Health Research Methods course.

**Mode of instruction:** online and self-paced. Students need to go over the sequence of material which is posted on Moodle, complete the assigned exercises by the due dates and have virtual meetings with the Library staff according to the instructions posted.

#### **Learning objectives**

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Develop a search strategy.
- Select relevant literature using this strategy

- Use the selected material using reference management software.
- Develop skills for reading scholarly literature.
- Synthesize salient points of relevant literature.
- Integrate sources into writing.
- Develop skills for reviewing and revising one's own writing.

## **Subject Matter and Schedule (posted on Moodle)**

### Day 1

1. Pretest
2. Library overview:
  - a. Material type
  - b. Resources in your field of studies (databases, e-book collections, Research guides, local resources, etc.)
  - c. Search Engines (Google Scholar vs Search ALL)
  - d. Services (DDS, Chat, Ask a Librarian, etc.)
3. Exercise:
  - a. Define search terms
  - b. Use search terms to find 2-3 sources of different material types
4. Reading overview – reading actively and critically
5. Reading exercise - read and pick out key ideas in 2-3 sources, take notes, ask questions
6. Literature review overview
7. Reading a literature review exercise - break down a literature review
8. Instructions on paraphrasing, quoting, and citation
9. Hands-on activity - outline literature review topics for their research
10. Instruction – how to search for these key topics in public health
  - a. Public health, versus Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary databases
  - b. Search skills
    - i. Type of search: Keyword vs exact search, metadata search vs full-text search, using thesaurus or subject)
    - ii. Search techniques: Boolean operators, phrase search, wildcard, etc.)
  - c. Filter search results (Date, author, subject, material types, etc.)
  - d. Peer review (process, articles and journals)

- e. Keep track of your research
11. Citation Management Tools (EndNote & RefWorks)

**Homework exercise:**

- Continue searching, export and review references in EndNote, and draft the literature review.
- Schedule an appointment with a librarian (draft a few questions describing your research to take to the meeting with the librarians).
- Work with a librarian on a checklist of research skills as relevant to your research
- Use learned skills to draft a bibliography of relevant resources as homework

Day 2

1. Review the draft bibliography and discuss search strategy
2. Recap literature review structure and content (informal assessment: quiz)
3. Recap paraphrasing, quoting, and citation
4. Hands-on revision exercise - time for learners to review their drafts and make changes
5. Peer review exercise:
  - a. Students will trade drafts and give feedback on one another's work
  - b. Students will write reflections about the activity, including how helpful it was to review and be reviewed and to map out their next steps for revision
6. Q&A

**Assessment methods**

- Formative assessments of lit search strategy and lit write-up review
- Lit review draft

**Resources and reading material**

**Books**

- Aveyard, Helen. (2010). Doing a literature review in health and social care: A practical guide. McGraw-Hill Education. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/aub-ebooks/detail.action?docID=771406>
- **Hickson, Mary.** (2008). **Research handbook for health care professionals.** Chichester: Blackwell Publishing. <http://library.aub.edu.lb/record=b1415906~S1>

- Bowling, Ann. (2014). **Research methods in health: investigating health and health services.** New York: McGraw-Hill.  
<http://library.aub.edu.lb/record=b1036294~S1>
- Pajo, Bora. (2018). **Introduction to research methods: a hands-on approach.** Los Angeles, California: SAGE.  
<http://library.aub.edu.lb/record=b2061415~S1>

## Research Methods Database

### SAGE Research Methods Online

- Project Planner
- Doing Research (method map)
- Doing Research (videos)

## Research Guides (On-line)

- Doing Research
- SML Research guide: A comprehensive guide for anyone interested in doing a literature search in the medical/health sciences field
- Citing Your Sources
- Citation Management Tools: EndNote & RefWorks
- Purdue University's Online Writing Lab website (owl.english.purdue.edu)