Pacific Lutheran University
N220
Library Research Assignment – Fall 2018
See Course Schedule for Instructional Sessions and for Due Date & Time

Objectives:
1. Develop an awareness of health sciences databases and strategies for finding resources for evidence-based practice.
2. Demonstrate an introductory ability to evaluate professional literature for quality related to evidence-based practice.
3. Increase knowledge of functional changes in the older adult population.
4. Collaborate in sharing knowledge with peers.
5. Demonstrate introductory ability to apply APA 6th edition style criteria for formatting academic papers in Nursing and for properly citing and referencing sources.

General Instructions:

1. Attend library research instruction session as scheduled (see schedule). You will then prepare a 2-3 page paper using APA format (page limit does not include the required Title and Reference pages) summarizing the results from your literature search. Note that questions/topics indicated in bold type below are items you need to specifically address in your paper.

2. Complete the TurnItIn Plagiarism Quiz at https://www.turnitin.com/static/plagiarism-quiz/ and retain a copy of your documentation of completion (probably easiest to take a screenshot of results and paste it into a blank word document). You will upload this along with your paper.

3. Prior to the research instruction session, you will select and sign up for a general topic related to older adult health. See the separate topic sign-up sheet. Some of the following sub-topics may give you additional ideas to consider as you explore options for the broader topic you signed up for. Identify your specific area of interest related to your topic and search database resources to find research and/or evidence-based clinical literature related to your topic. What topic did you pick and why did this topic interest you?

   a) Hygiene & Self-Care: Strategies and adaptations
   b) Hearing and visual impairment: adaptive strategies, care
   c) Depression, psycho-social and/or emotional health in OA
   d) Pain issues in OA: care and management
   e) Mobility: Fall prevention, Safety, Ambulation, fitness
   f) Sleep in the OA: care strategies, adaptations, education
   g) Sensory function in the OA
   h) Cognitive function in the OA Alzheimer’s, Dementia in OA Delirium in the OA
   i) Nutrition: needs, enhancement, safety, different modalities
   j) Nutrition in OA: Fluid Balance, hydration
   k) Elimination: Bowel Function, care strategies, education, continence
   l) Elimination: Bladder Function: peri-care, toileting, continence, education
   m) Skin Integrity & Wound care: bathing, massage, foot and nail care, hair care
   n) Therapeutic Communication and the OA
4. Search the CINAHL or other health database (see below) via the PLU library search resources. Develop a search strategy for your topic.
   a. **Indicate the keywords you used to initiate and refine your search.**

   Depending on your topic and success finding resources, consider searching (not required) one of the following databases: Medline, Cochran, Annual Reviews, AltHealthWatch, ProQuest, HealthSource and/or PsychInfo. You **must** use CINAHL or one of these databases for your search.

   a. What database(s) did you use to find your articles?
   b. Describe how easy or hard was it to find relevant articles? Did you need to adapt your search strategy?

5. Locate 2-3 articles of interest related to your topic. Skim each article and **write a brief (about 2 sentences each) narrative evaluation on each article**, using the criteria in the “article evaluation rubric” worksheet (see Sakai Resources) as a guide. You **do not** include the “article evaluation rubric(s)” when submitting your paper.

   **Note:** I strongly encourage you to investigate at least one article from a journal published in North America that is not available as “full-text” directly from the PLU Library holdings, but you must acquire by setting up a PLU Interlibrary Loan (ILL) account and requesting the article. I think you will be impressed by how easy this is!

   a. Briefly describe the 2-3 articles you found
   b. Select one article with the strongest evidence-based findings and relevance. Read it thoroughly.
      i. Which article did you choose?
      ii. Why did you select this article to focus on (in relation to the EBP evaluation criteria)?

6. **Synthesize the article you chose** into 1-3 paragraphs identifying the main points of the article. You can refer briefly to the other articles if they strengthen the evidence.

   a. What is the focus/topic of the article? (1-2 sentences)
   b. What are the main points or findings of the article/research? (2-4 sentences)
   c. What about this article was interesting to you? (1-2 sentences)
   d. Why you think this information is important? (1-2 sentences)
   e. How you might apply the information in the article? (1-2 sentences)
   f. Summary/closing statement for your paper
7. **Submit your paper, an electronic copy of your primary article, and the results of your TurnItIn plagiarism quiz as attachments** under “Assignments” in N220 Sakai.
   a. **Due:** Upload to Sakai Assignments by due date on course schedule
   b. **Save your paper as:** LastnameInitial_Article_mm-dd-yyyy.docx (or whatever date you submit it)

8. **Be prepared to share and discuss** the contents of your findings with your classmates during the subsequent class session focusing on your topic.
Library Research Paper – Brief Overview of Requirements

Length: 2-3 pages of text, plus the Title and Reference pages
Format: Must adhere to APA 6th Edition for format, citations in text, and references. Note that “author notes” and “abstracts” are not relevant for a short academic paper, nor should you need section headings for a short paper.

Flow of Paper:

Title Page, properly formatted per APA and note that the elements of the running head are different on the title page.

Introductory paragraphs
- What topic did you pick and what did this topic interest you?
- Indicate the keywords you used to initiate and refine your search?
- What database(s) did you use to find you articles?
- How easy or hard was it to find relevant articles? Did you need to adapt your search?
- Briefly describe each of the 2-3 articles you located in relation to the EBP evaluation criteria (approx. 2 sentences for each).
- Which article did you choose as your primary article to review?
- Why did you select this article?

Main section
- What is the focus/topic of the article? (1-2 sentences)
- What are the main points or findings of the article/research? (2-4 sentences)
- What about this article was interesting to you? (1-2 sentences)
- Why you think this information is important? (1-2 sentences)
- How you might apply the information in the article? (1-2 sentences)

Summary/closing paragraph

Reference page, properly formatted per APA, including all required elements for reference citations. Be particularly attentive to assuring academic integrity by properly referencing and citing your sources in text consistent with APA style!

Important Resources
- The Purdue OWL is another resource current with the 6th Edition criteria: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)
- “APA Sample Paper Setup” located in Sakai Resources (Assignments – Library Research)
- “Library Research Grading Rubric” located in Sakai Resources (Very Important to review this!)
- “Article evaluation for EBP” rubric located in Sakai Resources
- PLU Library research guide for Nursing: [http://findit.library.plu.edu/nursing](http://findit.library.plu.edu/nursing)
- (if this specific link is not active, from the PLU home page go to library > research guides > nursing)