

Eagles e-Health Project for UNCFSP/NLM HBCU ACCESS Project

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Introduction

This poster summarizes our report on the 2007-2008 Eagles e-Health project at North Carolina Central University. We took a cross-disciplinary and innovative team approach to training the NCCU campus and the off-campus health community in the use of the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) on-line resources to access health information. The faculty, students, and community partners contributing to the project are from Public Health Education, Library and Information Sciences and Psychology disciplines. Over 20 community partners in the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund's Health Disparities Initiative are also represented on the project.



Background

Alongside race and ethnicity, an important factor contributing to health disparities is the degree to which people understand health information and can successfully navigate the health care system (NC Health Literacy Report, 2007). NC has a high percentage of individuals with low literacy levels. Increasing access to quality health information and improving health literacy levels are critical issues.

Examined within the context of lower socio-economic status (SES), health disparities may result from a "knowledge gap" often observed in racial and ethnic minority communities (Finnegan, 2002).

Eagles e-Health Project

The Eagles e-Health project took a **broad and comprehensive** approach to increase the utilization of the NLM on-line resources by NCCU students, faculty, staff, and a network of local and statewide community partners. The study had 3 parts:

(1) Develop and deliver training; (2) Collect data on intervention effectiveness and (3) Analyze and report results. The project first focused on **training** a core team of faculty, staff, undergraduate, and graduate students to use NLM databases to research health issues. This group developed workshops to **disseminate information** about accessing and using the "www.nlm.org." Fifteen workshops were held. On campus, student organizations, classes, faculty volunteers, and interested staff participated. Both undergraduate and graduate **students** participated. Off-campus **partners** included over 22 statewide community partners who are addressing a wide range of health issues: diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, obesity. These community partners are participating in the NCCU Health Disparities Initiative (HDI) funded by the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF).

Qualitative and quantitative methods were used to collect data and research the presence and scope of a "knowledge gap" that may affect the utilization of on-line NLM health resources among racial and ethnic minorities in NC. The **outcomes-based methodology** applied required written pre-tests be administered to determine awareness of online health information and skill levels. A post-test questionnaire was provided about a month later.

To reach the attendees after the hands-on workshops, students helped create the **on-line** post-test questionnaire. In addition, to measure learning, an on-line basic proficiency test was developed for. Finally, public health education faculty were invited to participate in follow-up interviews to collect qualitative data. See results on handout.



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References

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