Examining Implicit Bias with Health Professions Students: Librarians Partnering with Faculty

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Introduction
- Allied Health Sciences Liaison Librarian invited to participate in a curriculum revision in the Division of Physical Therapy (PT)
- PT Division wanted to weave implicit bias throughout curriculum
- Course director and librarian created a multi-pronged approach involving a summer reading assignment on implicit bias, class discussion, literature searching and writing skills for first DPT course, Psychosocial Aspects of Disability

Methods
- Librarian and course director created discussion and writing assignments for Implicit Bias segment of DPT course
- To prepare for student literature search assignment, liaison librarians did test searches for different implicit biases in several databases. Results were shared with librarians staffing consult service.
- First library skills session introduced students to basics of searching and to appropriate databases.
- After reading Blindspot and taking the IAT tests in it, students selected an implicit bias of personal interest for library research and reflection
- Second library skills session gave students guided practice building search strategies for their selected implicit bias, selecting appropriate databases, performing and documenting literature searches, and downloading citations and PDFs to a citation manager

Why an Implicit Bias Guide?
- Became evident that it would be helpful to create an implicit bias guide with a focus on health professions.
- Guide would capitalize on work already done to extend search help and resources for students, researchers, librarians, and others into the future.
- During pilot, referred to existing University of Delaware guide (with permission).
- Subsequently created local guide featuring UNC licensed resources and local support services (e.g., school and university offices for diversity & inclusion)

Implicit Bias Guide
- General resources
- Implicit bias in health and medicine
- Search resources for future classes and researchers
- Implicit bias in other disciplines
- Includes related topics to fully explore issues
  - Cultural Competency
  - Health Disparities
  - Discrimination in Medicine
  - Minority Health
- Open access resources for scholarly and other audiences
- “Further Reading” suggestions to explore related topics

Guide Feedback
“Barbara, this resource is fantastic! Well done! Thanks for making me aware of it!”
Occupational Therapy faculty

“Fantastic!! Cant wait to check it out and use some resources in my course in fall:) Thank you for calling my attention to the site...great work!!”
Physical Therapy faculty

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https://guides.lib.unc.edu/implicit-bias