

# Practice What We Preach: Collaborative Research for Evidence-based Collection Development

Margaret (Peg) Allen, FMLA, Health Knowledge Consultants, Stratford, WI; Pamela Sherwill-Navarro, AHIP, RN, Remington College of Nursing, Lake Mary, FL; Joy Kennedy, MLS, Northwest Community Hospital, Arlington Heights, IL; Frances Delwiche, MLIS, Dana Medical Library, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

## Objectives

To conduct bibliometric research on the literature of nursing and allied health that would support the development of library collections, as well as inform practitioners of the major sources of information in their respective disciplines.

## Methods

NAHRS research activities began in 1993 with the Mapping the Literature of Allied Health project. This was followed in 2003 by the Mapping the Literature of Nursing project and in 2007 by the Nursing Journals Project.

- Recent activities include:
- Revision of the mapping protocol, now available on the NAHRS web site.
  - Creation of a wiki for communication between authors and project chairs
  - Creation of a Google® Forms spreadsheet for collaborative collection of journal data.

## Mapping Results

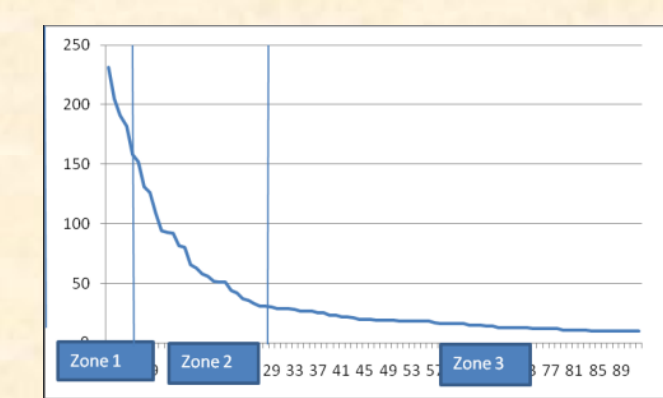
- The NAHRS Mapping Projects**
- **Allied Health:** studies published for 18 disciplines, including three updates
  - **Nursing:** studies published for 17 nursing disciplines/specialty areas; data from 18
  - **Studies in progress:**
    - Addiction Counseling
    - Healthcare Chaplaincy
    - Physician Assistant
    - Health Information Management
    - Radiation Therapy
    - Speech-Language Pathology
    - Critical Care Nursing
    - General Nursing (update)
    - Gerontological Nursing (original + update)
    - Nurse Anesthetist
    - Public Health Nursing (update)



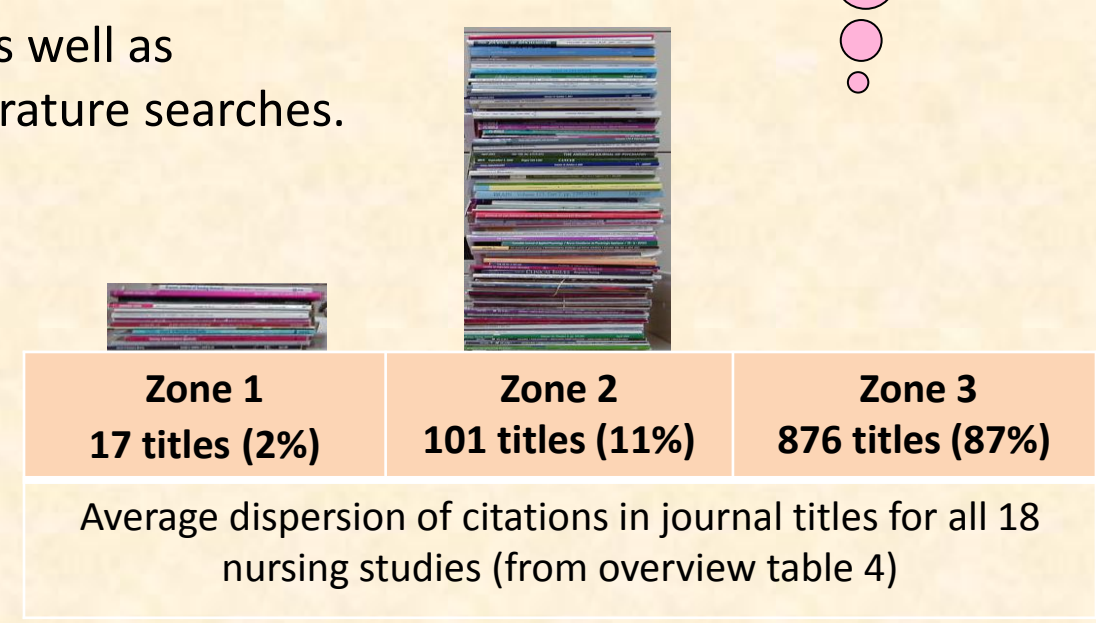
"Two years ago, I was looking for publishing opportunities and was fortunate enough to stumble upon NAHRS and the extraordinary mapping series. The experience of conducting a mapping study has been one of the highlights of my fifteen years as a librarian."  
Jonathan Potter, Eastern Washington University, NAHRS Chair-Elect, 2011 – 2012

## NAHRS Mapping Protocol, Revised 2010

- ✓ Identify source journals
- ✓ Collect and analyze references from all articles in three year range
- ✓ Sort references to journal articles into three "zones", with the first group representing the most heavily used journals, the second, larger group representing less used but still important journals, and the third, very large group, representing those journals that are referenced very infrequently.
- ✓ Determine database coverage for each title in Zones 1 and 2
- ✓ Thus, core journals can be identified for that discipline, as well as databases that should be included in comprehensive literature searches.



Distribution of cited journal titles in a typical mapping study.



Average dispersion of citations in journal titles for all 18 nursing studies (from overview table 4)

## Mapping the Literature of Allied Health (selected studies)

Author	Discipline	Journals in Zone 1	Top 3 Cited Journals
Judith Burnham	Physical Therapy (update), 2011 (in press)	16	• Physical Therapy • Archives of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation • Spine
Amber Burtis and Mary Taylor	Health Education (update), 2010	20	• Journal of American College Health • American Journal of Public Health • JAMA
Jonathan Potter	Occupational Therapy (update), 2010	9	• American Journal of Occupational Therapy • Archives of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation • OTJR: Occupation, Participation & Health
Frances Delwiche and Ellen Hall	Athletic Training, 2007	6	• American Journal of Sports Medicine • Journal of Athletic Training • Journal of Orthopedic & Sports Physical Therapy
Mary Taylor, Meseret Gebremichael, and Catherine Wagner	Health Care Management, 2007	11	• Health Affairs • JAMA • Medical Care

Dedicated to the vision and memory of Locke Morrissey, Collection Development, University of San Francisco, 1957 - 2010



In his last article<sup>1</sup>, Locke Morrissey noted that "Administrators want to see evidence that supports outcomes." This needs to include quantitative as well as qualitative evidence. "Tie the data to library outcomes especially those that have a direct impact on the campus curriculum. Presenting just the numbers will often lead to people ignoring the numbers because they don't have the time to interpret them themselves."

<sup>1</sup>Morrissey, L. (2010). Data-Driven Decision Making in Electronic Collection Development. *Journal of Library Administration*, 50(3), 283-290.

## Most cited journals from Mapping the Literature of Nursing, 1996 - 2000

Top 9 Cited Journals	Disciplines citing	Included in Zone 1	Total Points
JAMA	18	16	34
New England Journal of Medicine	18	15	33
Journal of Advanced Nursing	18	11	29
Nursing Research	18	10	29
Journal of Nursing Scholarship	18	7	25
American Journal of Public Health	17	8	25
Annals of Internal Medicine	18	5	23
American Journal of Nursing	18	4	22
Lancet	15	7	22

**Implications for collections:** Collections should include all Zone 1 titles for the specific discipline or nursing specialty, plus selected titles from Zone 2. When considering journal additions or cancellations, the most useful information is found within Zone 2.

## Nursing Journal Project

- Titles selected from most cited nursing journals, going down to those cited in Zone 2 by at least two studies. Committee recommendations also considered.
- To qualify for inclusion, title must be in nursing subset of MEDLINE or CINAHL, or a highly cited interdisciplinary journal with many nursing authors.
- 212 current titles on 2011 NAHRS Nursing Journal Core List
- Data description includes: Journal links including author instructions, Index coverage, Full-text sources

## Conclusions

- ✓ Vendor lists and citation databases are not completely reliable
- ✓ Consistency and strict attention to detail is essential
- ✓ Mapping studies and core lists are just one tool for collection development decisions, to be considered along with institution's mission and usage patterns.