During fall 2013, I was embedded in three sections of NURS 5000, Theoretical Foundations for Advanced Nursing Practice. These are online courses offered through RODP. A major focus of the course is on the students researching and critically reviewing concepts and models of health from clinical and research literature. The assessment was in one of the three sections, and focused on one information literacy learning outcome:

After reviewing the library resources information provided by the embedded librarian [c], a student in NURS 5000 [a] demonstrates his/her ability to access needed information effectively and efficiently by differentiating among types of sources [b], using at least three different types [d] for the literature review required for the completion of the “Concept Analysis Paper.”

I was a presence in the course D2L shell. Instruction consisted of a short video clip (http://youtu.be/KQ9K2-3t8-8) in which I emphasized the “Nursing Research Guide” (http://libguides.apsu.edu/nursing) I created that provides an overview of library databases and where to find information on APA style. I was also available via a “library issues” discussion board and e-mail. There were 16 students enrolled in the course. Before the paper was due, there were ten postings between myself and two students in the course on the discussion board regarding database searches and APA style clarification.

The learning outcome was measured based on my review of the “Concept Analysis Paper” (with close inspection of the Literature Review and the References) submitted by students for the course in which they were to select a concept and examine the use of the concept in at least two disciplines other than nursing, as well as the use of the concept in nursing based on the students’ own nursing experiences. Per directions provided by the instructor, the students were expected “to complete a substantive literature review for this paper. Literature includes but is not limited to articles, book and textbook citations, research articles/studies, personal experiences, and personal communications.” All sixteen of the students enrolled in the course submitted papers. In reviewing the papers, 13 of the papers did include at least three different types of sources, so 81% of the students successfully differentiated among types of sources in their research. The students also used their concepts in at least two disciplines other than Nursing, and incorporated scholarly publications from those subjects in their papers, as well. One student used only journals, so did not get the breadth of research that would have come from exploring other resources for a concept analysis, as suggested by the instructor. Another student used journals and the course textbook only. Finally, one student did not submit a “References” page with the “Concept Analysis Paper,” so I could not evaluate the sources adequately.

As a note, the two students who corresponded with me via the discussion board were among those 13 who met the learning outcome.

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