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During my first semester of graduate school, in my first class for Leadership in Occupational
Therapy, I was given a significant semester long assignment. After the professor went over it and
emphasized the need for the library and to start as soon as possible, I was very nervous and unsure how
I would do on the assignment. I had been to the library many times before but only to study and take
out a few books. This assignment was going to take much more than that. To help out, my professor
scheduled meetings during class time with a librarian to review and teach the class about how to use the
tools, resources, and services of the library for this assignment. My class met with the librarian
approximately three times with the sessions spread out during the semester to help with our progress. I
found this extremely helpful and don't know if I could have done as well as I did without it. During our
meetings at the library, the librarian taught the class how to use reference books, journals, e-journals, ebooks, web resources, databases, interlibrary loan, and microfilm as well as other areas that were
discussed to help with the research. The librarian taught the difference between primary, secondary,
and tertiary resources, which was applicable to the assignment.

The assignment for this class was a two part Reflective Analysis on a leadership domain within occupational therapy that most interests us. The first part was an extensive literature search and review and the second part was the relationship to leadership concepts the chosen domain had. The domain within occupational therapy that I chose was sensory integration with children. The assignment required a historical review beginning with the origin of occupational therapy in 1917 to the present day literature on the selected area of interest with each decade requiring a certain number of resources. My biggest concern was retrieving enough research from the earlier decades to fulfill the papers requirements. But through the meetings with the librarian and learning about the microfilms and books of old journals I was able to find plenty of articles and research on occupational therapy and sensory integration. The second part of the assignment required discussing a person or thread related to or

found in the research done in the first part. The person I choose to discuss for this part was Jean Ayres; she had many contributions to sensory integration and what it is today.

The resource in the library that most surprised me was the microfilm; I had no idea about it until I learned about it for this assignment. I did not know what the microfilm section of the library even was and I wound up using microfilm for a key portion of my research. The journals in the library were also very helpful. In the past I had only used the databases on the library website to retrieve articles from the American Journal of Occupational Therapy and other journals but it only goes so many years back. I was surprised to see how many years worth of journals were physically in the library. I never realized how extensive the resources, tools, and services the library had to offer until this assignment. Although I may not have needed everything the library has to offer for my other classes, I think it would have been helpful to learn more about the resources in freshman or sophomore year. Through this assignment and the research process with the use of Weinberg Library's resources and services, I learned a significant amount of knowledge in the methods and process of research as well as the importance of research in the profession of occupational therapy. This experience also helped me with my ability to more competently participate in my faculty mentored research course.