



University of Pennsylvania Biomedical Library Community Health Outreach Initiatives: Focus on Health Literacy

By Amanpreet Kaur, CFCS, MLIS
Community Health & Engineering Librarian
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Amanpreet Kaur, CFCS, MLIS

2013

BS in Family and Consumer Sciences Education with a minor in Engineering Studies from Iowa State University

2015

Master of Library & Information Science degree from Rutgers University

2017 – Present

Community Health & Engineering Librarian, University of Pennsylvania

Literacy AmeriCorps of Palm Beach County

2013 – 2014

Eugene Garfield Resident in Science Librarianship, University of Pennsylvania

2015–2017



Penn Compact 2020

[Bit.ly/slbookdrive](https://bit.ly/slbookdrive)

Community Outreach

School Libraries

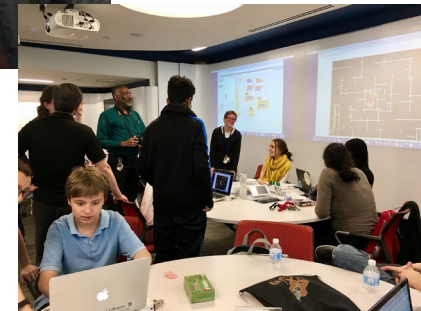
Field Trips

Community Health Outreach

Coding Workshops

Mentoring

Web Archiving





COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH



Health Corners

Biomedical
Library

- Director of Science Libraries
- Nursing Liaison Librarian

School of
Nursing

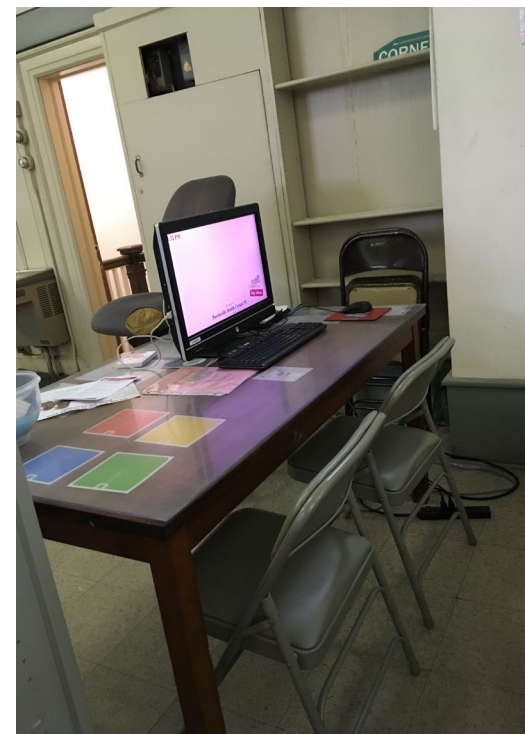
- NURS 380 Community
Nursing Course

Free Library of
Philadelphia

- Foundation
- Kingsessing Branch
- Haverford Branch
- Paschalville Branch
- Blackwell Regional Library

National
Network of
Libraries of
Medicine(NNLM)

- Mid-Atlantic Region(MAR)
Office



2018 Community Health Outreach Summer Interns



Health Corners Support

- Observed and surveyed the nursing students at the health corners
- Staffed health corners
- Analyzed the print collection
- Made recommendations on the future support for the health corners
- Designed colorful, informative, and promotional materials for the health corners

Health Books Spreadsheet

- Sorted through 2 lists of books that were cited in the original health corners grant proposal
- Identified whether or not those books have a more recent edition or if equivalent print resources exist
- Identified health needs of West Philadelphia



Health Corners Report

Successes

- Nursing students are well-liked by community members
- Blood pressure screenings are in demand
- Students' presence in and out of library (workshops, homework help, healthy snacks, community clean-ups, etc)
- One of the original health corner participants received the President's Engagement Prize to continue working with the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Challenges

- Type A students struggle in unstructured environments
- Students need structured training in health literacy
- Too many moving parts
- Students aren't actually staffing the health corners and aren't always in class
 - What happens during university breaks and holidays?
- Students pay out of pocket for the programs they wish to do
- Privacy concerns regarding a single computer dedicated to health information seeking





BEYOND HEALTH CORNERS



Information Prescription

Health Care Provider Name:

Patient Name:

Topic(s):

What do I do with the Information Prescription?

After receiving this information prescription, pick 1 of these 3 choices.

1. Make an information prescription appointment with a librarian.
2. Talk with a librarian in the Consult Room on Tuesdays between 10am and 12pm.
3. Search for the prescribed information on <https://medlineplus.gov/> on your own. Please let your health care provider know you picked this option.

Dr. Bennett L. Johnson, Jr.



Penn
Libraries



MedlinePlus®
Trusted Health Information for You

"Information
Prescription"
program



"Health
literacy"
course



"Evaluating
Health Websites
& Apps"
workshops

Evaluating Health Websites and Apps



Learn how to find websites and apps that have good health information. Enter a raffle for cool prizes.



Dr. Bennett L. Johnson, Jr.



The workshop will be at the
Blanche Nixon Cobbs Creek Library
on the following dates.

Monday January 22nd at 6pm

Tuesday February 20th at 11:30am

Monday March 19th at 6pm

Tuesday April 24th at 11:30am



Health Literacy
Training/Advising

Community Health
Workers

Outreach Specialists

Students

Librarians

Health Literacy
Month Events

Nexus Maximus 2018
@ Jefferson
University East Falls
Campus

Consultations

Sayre High School
Career Day
Presentations

Minorities in Health
Symposium

Involvement in the
Community

Health Fairs

Sayre Health
Center Fair

Penn Presby
Hospital Health
Fair

Penn Med Baby
Shower

Community
Events

First Thursday
Meetings @ Free
Library of
Philadelphia

Walk with a
Future Doc

West Philadelphia
Women's Day

Physical & Virtual Spaces

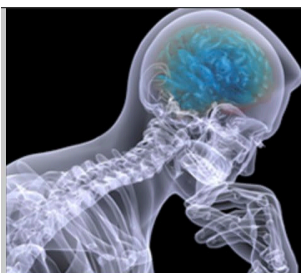
Community Health Outreach
Website:

<https://guides.library.upenn.edu/communityhealth>

Twitter:

@akaur0





Biomeditations

News from the Penn Biomedical Library



EVENTS

Biomed Librarian Walks with a (Future) Doc

BY AMANPREET "AMAN" KAUR ON AUGUST 6, 2018

The Biomedical Library's [Community Health and Engineering Librarian](#), Aman Kaur, walked with Perelman School of Medicine Students who are participating in the nationwide movement, [Walk with a Doc](#).

These students host biweekly Saturday morning walks in West Philly's Kingsessing neighborhood. They named this initiative "[Walk with a Future Doc](#)". Medical students, clinicians, community leaders, and West Philadelphians of all ages slowly trickle in to participate in Walk



**ALL AGES:
ADULTS, KIDS,
TEENAGERS**
WHEN
2nd & 4th
Saturdays
of the month
9am – 10am

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Consumer Health Corner @ Biomedical Library



#HealthLiteracyMonth



Future Plans

Continue to support, expand, and improve current initiatives

Find ways to mobilize fellow librarians, interns, and students to contribute to these initiatives

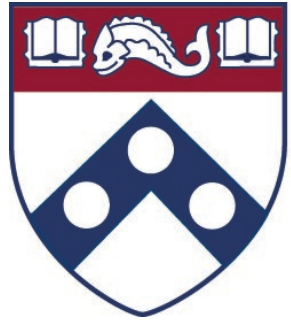
Establish a Relaxation Room in the Biomedical Library in collaboration with health sciences students

Hold office hours at medical student-run clinics?

Finalize and publish health books list

Lessons Learned





Penn
Libraries



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