

Dear Mom,

Today I took a field trip to the
other side of campus.
There's weird stuff over there.*

*Not quoted from an actual letter.

Dawne Lucas, Special Collections Librarian
Health Sciences Library, UNC-Chapel Hill
Science, Technology and Health Care Roundtable
SAA 2015, Cleveland, Ohio

Medical Instrument and Pharmaceutical Collection

- ▶ More than 1500 items, including:
 - ▶ Dental tools
 - ▶ Doctor's bags
 - ▶ Medicine bottles
 - ▶ Microscopes
 - ▶ Optical kits
 - ▶ Pharmaceutical samples
 - ▶ Surgical instrument kits

Johnson's Mustard Plaster



Anesthesia Mask



Eye Instrument Kit



Pocket Instrument Kit



Medicine you're glad you've never taken



First Year Writing Program - Required of all students

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English 105

- ▶ Writing *across* the disciplines
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- ▶ 3 units:
 - ▶ Natural Sciences
 - ▶ Social Sciences
 - ▶ Humanities

First Year Writing Program - Required of all students

English 105

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 - ▶ Social Sciences
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English 105i

- ▶ Writing *within* the disciplines
- ▶ Concentrate on one area for the entire semester.
- ▶ Both: Library instruction usually takes place on the other side of campus.

Blog Assignment

- ▶ Each student picks one instrument from the HSL's collection.
- ▶ Student does research about the instrument: function, importance, etc.
- ▶ Students submitted blog posts (privately) to HSL website and to instructor via Sakai.
- ▶ At the end of the semester, best papers selected to be posted publicly on HSL's website.
- ▶ Assignment used in Fall 2014 and Spring 2015.

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- ▶ Received positive feedback about the assignment.

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Positive feedback

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Positive feedback

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“Working with material culture makes you feel more connected to the history itself since you’re actually holding a piece of history in your hand.”

“It was interesting for me to think about the fact that these objects were once used to save people's lives.”

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- ▶ Students not always able to easily identify instruments.

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- ▶ Students not always able to easily identify instruments.
- ▶ Submitting assignments to the HSL website was a flop.
- ▶ Students not obligated to revise papers for web publication once semester ends.

Spring 2015

What worked

- ▶ Second library session added to encourage use of HSL materials and for students to ask questions.

What didn't

- ▶ Reality check: Not all students showed up this time.
- ▶ We didn't select papers for the website.

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- ▶ Have a variety of instruments: microscopes and stethoscopes for the squeamish. Surgical instruments for the brave.



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“I decided to go the pharmaceutical route only because I cannot handle typical doctor utensils.”



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- ▶ Don't overdo resources. Avoid PubMed.
- ▶ Have a variety of instruments: microscopes and stethoscopes for the squeamish.
- ▶ Make sure you have a room with plenty of space, and time for set-up/clean-up.



Questions?

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