Supercourse Newsletter

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Z_CsRVbBCI (BA Scientific Supercourse)

http://ssc.bibalex.org/helpdesk/introduction.jsf (BA Scientific Help Desk)

12/17/14 Happy Saint Patrick's Day

Dear Friends,

I wanted to thank all of you. We have successful reached millions of people with the help desk. It is because you helped to make it go viral.

We are very proud of the work of the Library of Alexandria. Within a 3 day period the Library of Alexandria Research Methods help desk became probably the best known site to learn how to "Publish fast, Publish Often". The Library of Alexandria team has been incredible.

We wanted to give you a brief update. Eugene Shubnikov from Russia has been at the center of this with our colleagues from the Library of Alexandria. As I had indicated we collected the top PowerPoint, Wiki and YouTube presentations we could find. I screened all of them. We plan to have many of the 14 PowerPoint lectures in the BA Research Door translated into Arabic, Chinese, English, Farsi, Hebrew, Russian and Spanish. I spent about 5 days searching through dancing cats, Psy, and "What does the Fox say?" to find many outstanding research methods on you tube which we included. I know you might find this hard to believe but some students think that statistics is boring. However, I ran across a fantastic set of lectures using modern dance to illustrate concepts. There is a certain beauty of the "Waltzing with a frequency distribution", the "Tango of Correlation", and the "Peppermint twist of sampling". Take a look at these, as they are really cool.

http://tumblr.thefjp.org/post/62900232917/statistics-explained-through-modern-dance

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere" (Chinese proverb)

As you have seen we have reformulated the Library of Alexandria help desk.

We started this last year, and of all the projects I have ever started I was sure this would work we were so confident. Clearly there is a huge need for those in academia to publish, but you cannot publish in upper tier journals without excellent research methods. After 7 months few budding investigator posted questions for help.

"Well, I think we tried very hard to not be overconfident because when you get overconfident, that is when something snaps up and bites you." (Neil Armstrong)

We were so overconfident as we believed that this had to work, but why didn't people post questions. Despite the lack of questions amazingly

7000 people came to the site. It appears that budding young investigators are not keen to ask gray/no hair experts questions, they would rather try and find out the answers themselves. We therefore changed the whole web site and how we "Market" it to the world.

"Nanakorobi yaoki" Fall seven times, and stand up eight Clearly we were overconfident, but this proved to be a wonderful learning experience. The need for building research capacity in developing countries is obvious to improve publishing. Our first path did not lead to success, but our experience opened new paths that we will try until we are successful. The Library of Alexandria will not fail.

"Don't let slip an opportunity; it may never come again" (Chinese Proverb) The new launch was far better than the first one 9 months ago. We had a massive distribution of Research Methods help desk so that as many young people across the world would know that there is a place to find answers.

We also deemphasized the Q and A, by providing the best research methods that we could find.

One of the problems of most things that go viral is that they spike and then people forget about them. We thus hold people's interest for a nanosecond, and they need to be reminded. We have taking a new approach that appears to be working very well. We are establishing a group of experts to endorse the library of Alexandria Supercourse. At this point we have two Nobel Prize winners, and are talking to others of the caliber in science and agriculture. There will be an equal number from developed and developing countries. The second is that we have identified the top impact journals in environment, epidemiology, public health, statistics, and agriculture. I have written to 60 of these seeking to put a link to the help desk from their instructions for authors. Every time we publish, we go to the instructions for authors. I have been impressed with the response as the major research journals recognize that only 3% of their articles come from 80% of the world. Most of the articles from developing countries are turned down because of poor research methods. We will help authors with their research methods, this will help the journals to see better articles from developing countries, and this will to bring the Library of Alexandria to the center of science and research as it was 2000 years ago. I just sent the notes 5 days ago. Already 13 journals have

agreed, including 6 of the leading statistics journals.   There also is a

win for the journals as we are including links from the help desk to the journals. In some ways we can help direct scientists from developing countries to "user friendly" journals and increase their likelihood of publication by improving their research methods.

"When helping others, do not look for a reward; if you looking for rewards, don't help others" (Chinese proverb) Agriculture and Health: There is a wonderful journal concerning agriculture and health titled Agriculture and Food Security. We in global health need to create strong ties with those in Agriculture.

(http://www.agricultureandfoodsecurity.com/) One Health: There is an extremely important initiative taking place called One Health http://www.onehealthinitiative.com/contact.php . The concept is that we cannot just look at human health and animal health, we need to look at "One Health to understand global health. We have a beautiful lecture in the Supercourse about this. Global Health Channel:

On March the 27th, at 7pm (GMT) Dr Greg Martin and other panel members will be hosting a live video broadcast answering question about careers in global health. You'll be able to submit questions (read time) to a panel.

To find out more click http://bit.ly/OXFyPp Statistical Lecture of the week:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7QdNYLp_E0

This YouTube presentation by Dr. Bachman, discusses in a simple manner the concept of confounding variables. Confounding is often difficult to understand but is essential to comprehend when analyzing research data.

There are also excellent PowerPoint and Wiki information about confounding. Come become a confounding expert!

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". (WHO)

Best Regards,

Ron, Faina, Eugene, Francois, Nicolas, Boris, Ismail, Vint, Kawkab, Ali, Olga, Maria, Eman, Kyle, Aiym, Rob, Francis, Nabil, Mita, Olga, Gil, Eric Sholpan, , Shalkar, Ghassan,