

Team Supercourse Newsletter

Supercourse, BA SuperHelp Desk

<http://ssc.bibalex.org/helpdesk/introduction.jsf> (BA SuperHelp desk)

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBaSuperhelpDesk?ref=hl> (BA SuperHelp Facebook)

www.pitt.edu/~super1// Supercourse

June 26 2014

Dear Friends

Please forward to all students, and academics you know who must publish or they will perish. The BA SuperHelp Desk, will Help

Team BA SuperHelp Desk

The Launch is still buzzing in our minds. It has been very exciting and successful for our pilot stage which will continue to Sept. 1. We have learned so much. This was the most massive launch we have ever had. We reached 1.2 million people directly interested in research and global health. These were students, faculty, MOH individuals etc. Then the information was submitted to many other sites. For example in the excellent Public Health in the Arab world there were at least 5 others who posted information to this list serve. The recruiting experts was outstanding, as we now have over 250 leaders in research/design/statistics offering to provide answers.

“When you launch in a rocket, your not really flying that rocket. You are just sort of hanging on” (Anderson)

The Library of Alexandria site is a beautiful site. Please take a look at it. We were very pleased that Eman Eltahlawy created a really nice Facebook page (see above and visit). This is especially important to me as I am 64 years old, and Facebook challenged.

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We posted 6 questions in the past couple of weeks. I was very pleased of the answers we received. We received 2-4 excellent answers per question.

Many of the answers had links so that not only was the question answered, but also it was a learning experience for those who posted the question, as well as those who were interested in the question.

In just a few days we received 102 “likes” please visit us and tell us that you like us!

US BA SuperHelp Desk

Something very surprising was that we received emails from the US saying that there should be a US BA SuperHelp desk. The rationale is that many people in the US do research but have little access to research methods help. For example Universities and colleges with limited resources, local and state governments, NGOs, Newspapers etc. However they too are afflicted with Stataphobia as they do not have in their organizations the research methods expertise. Citizens

themselves attempt to do research (e.g. cancer clusters), often with disastrous and costly results. If citizens had access to a help desk to help them do and understand research this would be very important. I would like your thoughts about building a US Help desk to help our citizens. ronaldlaporte@gmail.com. If Pakistan, Sudan, Iran, India, Lebanon and 7 others are building a national help desk, why should we in the US also establish a US BA SuperHeld to improve our science? Research for all citizens!

“A prudent question is one-half of wisdom” (Bacon), it is also ½ of being promoted

“Always the beautiful answer who asks a more beautiful question”
e.e.cummings

Everything worked very well, from the web page, facebook, moderation, and the answers. It worked far better than I expected. The major problem is that we have only gotten 6 questions, and we wonder why. We would love your thoughts.

We have seen world wide the acceptance of the concept of publish or perish. Ph.D. students in Kazakhstan must publish to get their Ph.D. Potential Professors in Indonesia need a good publication record to be promoted as do academics in India. We are seeing that Publish or Perish is the Sword of Damocles, omnipresent over the heads of junior faculty and graduate students. Many junior faculty and graduate students want to, and must publish. They have excellent ideas but are dragged down into the quicksand of academia because they do not have the tools to publish. Look around in your department, you will see

Lecture of the Week: Role of Iron in Human Health, Drs. Malik and Yadav, National Agri. Food biotechnology Institute, Mohale Punjab, Indian. The lecture by Malik and Yadav is an excellent lecture describing the role of iron in health. The biochemistry of iron and health are nicely represented. There is an excellent overview of the sources of Iron, and the problem of Iron Deficiency in India and the world.
<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec49271/index.htm>

“A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn I hammering on cold iron.” (H. Mann)

"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, Nicholas, Ohanyido, Gil, Mita, Ismail, Eric, Kawkab, Vint, Ali, Olga