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January 11th, 2019

Fondren Library Research Award

As a part of PSYC 340: Research Methods of Psychology, my team members Miranda Cole, Arjun Peddireddy, Jerry Wu and I utilized Fondren Library resources and databases to develop and execute our student-led research project. Fondren Library was not only a place for us to explore our research topic, impostor phenomenon among university students, it was also a gathering place for our team members to share ideas and investigate our findings.

Our professor, Dr. Sandra Parsons, gave us free reign on what we could investigate during the semester. We each made use of Fondren Library's Psychology Database to find topics and research papers that piqued our interest. From browsing APA PsycNet, Google Scholar, and PsycINFO, each team member came in with various ideas of topics to study. With our diverse interests, our team found common ground in researching about an individual's feeling of impostor phenomenon at Rice University and how that reflects how the individual perceives others. With a topic in mind, our team began to search for prior research on impostor phenomenon among university students. We continued to utilize Fondren Library's online databases for our research as well as OneSearch and WorldCat to find relevant papers on impostor phenomenon. Throughout the search process, we made sure to find papers that were published in reputable and relevant journals. Many of the filters on the database sites allowed us to quickly identify research papers to study.

A large portion of our study involved students taking a survey. Our team members gathered around the first floor desktops to develop our survey on Qualtrics, a survey hosting platform. During this phase of our research project, a large portion of our team time was spent discussing the appropriate questions to ask on our survey. We not only consulted our professor, but we also reached out to psychology graduate students for their input. With a completed survey and collected data, the next phase of our project was data analysis. We cleaned our data on Excel and analyzed the data on IBM SPSS data analytics program. The final phase of our project included designing and presenting a poster in front of our class and later RUSP. We utilized the Digital Media Common's desktops program, Adobe InDesign, to design our final poster. The final piece was practicing delivering our presentation. For practicing, we often used Fondren's 6th floor study room to practice.

This psychology research project enriched our understanding of the academic research process and helped us practice the art of crafting a manuscript for publication. All the tools that we utilized contributed to the development of each project phase. With Fondren Library's resources, we were able to find a breadth of research papers pertinent to our topic, construct our final product, refine our presentation skills, and become better researchers.

Poster