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Title

Chicanxs and Medicine: A History of Ailments

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<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2p01r791>

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Publication Date

2017-08-11

Undergraduate

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Library Use Statement

Liset Contreras

What drew you to the resources you used? (Please write a minimum of 100 words)

When I started at UCLA as a freshman I knew absolutely nothing about the existence of databases and library collections. While growing up I thought that the only thing libraries had to offer were books. For an avid reader and enthusiast for non-fiction books, this was enough for me. Little did I know that libraries had much more to offer. UCLA Library has redefined what a library is to me. I am a first-generation Latina college student and throughout my years at UCLA I have learned about the many resources that the library has to offer. I am grateful to the librarians that helped me learn how to navigate and refine my searches on databases. Learning this skill was useful for many of my classes, including Chicano/a 10A. When I found out that we had to do a zine, I was intrigued by what a zine was. I was not sure which database to access, but I knew that I would find one that could help me. So, I started my search for what a zine was by going to the UCLA Library's Research Guides. I suspected that there might be something for me in the Design Media Arts link. I found the Design and Applied Arts Index database and was able to read more about zines. I learned more about the history and how zines were a way of creatively being able to express oneself. I learned that there was no set structure for a zine. Ironically, this helped me structure my zine. Overall, I was drawn to the resources that I used because I felt confident in how the librarians had taught me how to search for information and how to access online books, articles, and images.

How did you find the material? (Please write a minimum of 100 words)

For my project, *Chicanxs and Medicine: A History of Ailments*, I primarily found my research material through EBSCOhost and Web of Science. These are two great databases that I can easily find in the UCLA Library Databases search link. By reading different articles I came across different statistics and facts that I was able to use in my final project. In addition, I searched for books on the UCLA Library's Catalog. I was able to get a hold of *Chicana Power!: Contested histories of Feminism in the Chicano Movement* through UCLA's Interlibrary Loan Service. I used some of the information from this book for my section on Chicana Feminism and Reproductive Health. I was also able to access the book *How race is made in America* through UCLA's Online resource access. I used information from this book in my section about Medical Racialization and Deportations. Again, I was able to find this information and access it due to the help that librarians have provided me with across the years. I am also grateful to have learned about using a VPN to access materials off-campus.

Did faculty, librarians, classmates, or others help you on your journey, and if so, who and how? (Please write a minimum of 100 words)

In addition to my academic online search of zines, I attended one of the zine workshops offered at Powell Library to see examples and learn more about zines. I enjoyed browsing through the collection of zines that Powell Library has. They were very raw and eye opening. Many of the zines talked about personal events and different issues. One of the main things that stood out to me about them was that they did not follow the norm. There is a structured way to publish books and magazines, but the zines I saw showed me that I did not have to follow those rules. I could talk from my personal experience in an informal way and I found this very refreshing. In class, my professor, Dr. Carpio, explained that it could be about any topic we wished to talk about as long as it was relevant to the class. She gave us creative freedom and I appreciated this very much. As a premed I have learned that medicine is viewed as the epitome of success, but this is not why I want to go into medicine. I want to go into medicine to help reduce health disparities. While brainstorming for my zine, I was aware of Latinx health disparities, so I knew that medicine has not always treated everyone the same. I wanted to explore this topic and shine more light on it. So, I decided to create my zine on the history of Chicaxs and Medicine. My first thought was, what do I want to put on the cover? Just the title? No, the zines that I had seen at Powell Library were very creative and artistic, so I wanted to do something similar. I decided that I wanted to show a place in my neighborhood through photography for the cover. My neighborhood, Boyle Heights, is historically known for being a Latino community, with a high population of Mexican-descent residents. Although my community is also considered a low-income neighborhood and has a reputation for high gang violence, we also have a reputation for fighting back against injustices. The birth of the Chicano Mural Art Movement was in Boyle Heights. I wanted to show a mural that others may not know about or can easily find online. I searched the UCLA Library Digital Collections database and saw murals that were already photographed. I know about many murals in my community, so after having searched for the ones that were photographed I photographed one that was relevant to my research and was also not in the database. As mentioned before, I am thankful to the librarians that taught me how to search for information and images.

In creating your project, how did you determine what materials were most suitable? (Please write a minimum of 100 words)

I determined what materials were most suitable through my experience with writing research papers for Neuroscience and Chicano/a Studies. As a Neuroscience major and Chicano/a Studies minor, I know that both fields of study require different material use. For this project, I was not talking about a scientific hypothesis. So, I knew that I would not use PubMed like I have with my neuroscience papers. I did not have to interpret data, so

there was also no need for statistical tools. But I knew that it was a given I would be using databases such as EBSCOhost and Web of Science. Since they have been very useful in the past for my Chicano/a Studies classes. I had never created a project with photography, so I knew that I would have to learn how to use Adobe to edit my photos and make the collage I envisioned for my cover. I used Lynda.com to watch tutorials on how to use Adobe. Lynda.com is a great resource for UCLA students that want to learn different skills. I also watched some videos on photography prior to taking my pictures. I am new to photography so I am glad to have had access to professional tutorials. I am also glad that the CLICC Lab computers have Adobe installed. I would not be able to afford Adobe on my own, so I am thankful for the access that we have to these programs.

What strategies did you employ as you searched collections or gathered data? (Please write a minimum of 100 words)

When I am searching in different collections I will pay attention to the time period it covers, locations, sources, and use filter options. This method helped me find useful information for my project. For gathering my research information, I initially created a word document to create a list of what I would find. While I conducted my research, if I came across anything that I thought was relevant or a good idea, I would put it down on my information document. For example, if I found an interesting article I would copy/past the title and author as well as quote the information that I had found to be relevant. If the information was from a book I would write down the title and information I found. Next, I start another document for my outline.

How did you winnow and refine the resources you found into a meaningful bibliography to support your work? (Please write a minimum of 100 words)

While I was outlining my zine's content, I started to include supporting evidence that I drew from the information I had previously gathered. At this time, I also started to create my bibliography. The last page on my outline is my draft bibliography. To keep track of the information that I did use and did not use, I highlighted what I did use for my outline. I think that this is a good way to help organize my research information. After finishing my outline, I do not erase what I did not use from my prior research gathering. Just in case I may need it for future drafts. To winnow and refine my resources I thought about what mattered to me. What did I want others to take away from my zine? I wanted others to know that medicine has been used against Mexican populations in the past and this has had repercussions. I wanted my zine to be a counternarrative to previous and present mainstream media that has negatively portrayed Mexicans. It is important that people do not forget Mexicans have been criminalized and mistreated for centuries. But I also wanted my zine to represent hope. I am from Mexican descent, my parents are immigrants, I grew up in a tough neighborhood, I have experienced racism because of the color of my brown skin, yet I still feel empowered by my education and hopeful that change is possible. Doing research for my zine has allowed me to eloquently support my point of view on the medical treatment of Mexicans. Learning how to conduct research using the library's resources is a powerful tool I have acquired from my higher education.

In addition, I am learning how to contribute knowledge by producing new knowledge. The organization of my zine, including what is in my bibliography, reflects what I want others to be aware of so that they can make better informed decisions, and ultimately, help spread tolerance and respect for one another.