

Giving New Life to Our Failures

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In the Fall/Winter 2019 issue of *Hypothesis: Research Journal for Health Information Professionals* we published our first Hypothesis: Failure! article. That article talked about pitfalls of a library renovation and plenty of lessons learned along the way. The next issue's column addressed using reflective practice after (coincidentally) suffering writing woes while writing an article about reflective practice. Now, for our 2022 issue I'm pleased to share the article, *A Pilot Project Exploring Low-tech Collaborative Board Gaming on Student Attitudes Toward Interprofessional Education*, that discusses a relatively simple method of student engagement but like many things in life, timing is everything and perhaps rolling out this initiative during a world-wide pandemic did not set it up for success. The authors give a great background on the project and all the reasons it should have been successful, but they provide thoughtful reasoning on why they are submitting this as a failure.

Reading the article made me think a bit more about what my vision has been for this column because while this month's article is reported as a statistical failure, the authors did recognize some anecdotal success with their project. When I first proposed this column to then editors, Carol Perryman and Erin Foster, I told them I wanted to have a place for libraries and librarians to report failures, lessons learned, or mistakes that mattered. That is and remains my primary focus and criteria for submissions to this column. However, I am a firm believer in using anecdotal "evidence" when appropriate, especially if there's high probability of it offering or lending to something being successful. One could argue that much of Evidence-Based Library and Information Practice (EBLIP) is anecdotal. While the numbers didn't show success with the project in this month's article, the self-reported feedback from the students who took part in it did feel there was benefit. There is more to this story as you will see when you read the article, but I appreciated the authors perhaps unintentionally making me, as the reader, think about other considerations within their failed study.

I invite you to share your failures as a way of giving back to the profession what you've learned not to do the next time you try something. This column is not limited to health science libraries or librarians so please encourage your colleagues in other types of libraries to consider submitting an article. Regardless of which type of library we work in, many of our practices, goals, and missions are the same. Because of that, we can learn plenty of lessons from one another even if the failure wasn't in a setting just like our own.

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