Katheryne B. Willock Library Research Award

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When I started as a researcher at the Arizona Cancer Center, I was in desperate need of more information. My background had been in neuroscience and psychology and the change in research environments demanded a new set of knowledge and skills. My new project was to characterize the *in vivo* and *in vitro* properties of a cancer mutation called L265P. L265P is the most prevalent mutation in a non-Hodgkin lymphoma called Waldenstrom’s Macroglobulinemia and has recently acquired much interest in the medical research community.

I had never undertaken any biomedical research before and I needed to make up for my dearth of knowledge and experience. The Science and Engineering library was my first stop. There, I was able to begin building the necessary background on immunology and lymphomas that my project required. I took particular advantage of the online peer-reviewed article database to begin learning about the biological systems that I would be working with. I was even able to investigate the ethics of the animal research that I was going to be conducting using JSTOR.

Yet as my project continued, the information resources of the library contributed not only conceptually but also methodologically and technically. The gene that I am investigating acts to increase cell proliferation by activating a transcription factor called NF-kB. I needed to design a system to monitor the transcription levels of a NF-kB, and thus, its expression. Using a variety of keyword searches, I combed through a variety of complimentary research databases such as EBSCOhost, Sciencedirect and PubMed. I was able to locate a journal article that provided a system to monitor transcription using quantitative polymerase chain reaction. While the article was not available online, I was able to take advantage of the interlibrary loan process to quickly receive the article.

The complimentary article databases that the library provided have also been essential to locating physical materials for my project. I needed to locate several cell lines such as MCWL-1, Y16 and BCWM-1. Finding which research groups or cell line repositories that owned these materials was difficult. But through the use of the libraries complimentary databases such as PubMed and Sciencedirect, I was able to locate which researchers had used these cell lines for past research and I was even able to find their contact information.

The library has also provided extensive logistical support to my project. I have had to provide an oral presentation of my research to my lab group and I made extensive use of library software such as excel and SPSS in order to analyze my data. Additionally, I was able to use the library APA citation tutorials in order to help me author a bibliography for my presentation.

The databases, repositories, and resources that the Library provides have made fantastic contributions to my research and I am exceedingly grateful that they are so freely available.