Professional Development Leave Application

Date: August 16, 2005
Librarian: Locke Morrissey

Purpose & Goals

The purpose of my professional development leave is to perform a bibliometric analysis of the nursing research literature to take a look at the following factors:

--What types of literature do nurses reference?
--Do they accurately report those references?
--Do nurses cite nurses more often than other professionals?
--Has there been an increase in the number of multi-authored articles in the nursing literature over time?

Learning Objective

I am currently the library liaison for the nursing school at USF. In 2001, I published an article[1] that included a very brief bibliometric analysis of the nursing research literature that looks only at the types of literature nurses reference. This proposal would involve more in depth research to look at other factors such as accuracy in citing references, what types of professionals are cited most often and is there a trend (increase or decrease over time) in the number of multi-authored articles submitted to nursing research journals. The last two factors are also interests that have been expressed to me by the Dean of the School of Nursing.

Although specific to the field of nursing, this professional development leave will also help to use the analytical tools that could then be applied to the bibliometric analysis of any discipline. Specific to nursing it will give me a better understanding of how the nurse uses the research literature and how I might adjust my bibliographic instruction and collection development techniques in light of the results of my research findings.

Time schedule

I propose to begin the professional development leave during a 7-week period of Summer 2006. I do not anticipate the need for additional funds to perform this research.

References: