Using Historical Data to Inform and Support Policy

Jeannine Uribe, PhD, RN

La Salle University School of Nursing and Health Sciences

LASALLE UNIVERSITY

Explorers are Never Lost

Did you know?

- When PA nurses were organizing in 1903, they were viewed by some as organizing a union.

- Invited NY nurses to inform them of the difficulties they ran into when pushing for registration.

- Had opposition coming from many sides

- Used the press to help with supportive editorials

Why Include History in Policy Preparation

- Understand what has preceded the current issue:
  - Why are things like they are today?

- Consider issues that arose in the past
  - Look at secondary sources for analysis of issues that arose in the past

LASALLE UNIVERSITY

Explorers are Never Lost

How to Discover Precedents in Nursing History Through Databases

- JSTOR

- CINAHL

How to Search for Primary Resources

- Archives

- Google books

- Historical Newspapers

- Historical Films

LASALLE UNIVERSITY
Explorers are Never Lost

Corroboration and Perspectives

- Place the primary sources within their historical times through reading

- Ask questions while reading: Do not accept just one perspective

- Look for the historical source's or historical figure's "agenda"

Scrutinize Historical Data for Bias, Accuracy and Plausibility

- Bias may be present in primary sources

- Investigate the background of the sources

- Several sources will increase veracity of the story

- Increase plausibility by widely reading on the topic

References

- Gaddis, J.L. (2002). *The landscape of history: How historians map the past.* New York: Oxford University Press.

- Lundy, K.S. (2012). Historical research. In P.L. Munhall (ed.), *Nursing research: A qualitative perspective* (5th ed.) (pp. 281-398). Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning.

- Sheard, S. (2018). History matters: The critical contribution of historical analysis to contemporary health policy and health care. *Health Care Analysis, 26*(2), 140-54.

LASALLE UNIVERSITY

Explorers are Never Lost