

Supercourse Newsletter  
6 January 2013  
[www.pitt.edu/super1/](http://www.pitt.edu/super1/)

Dear Friends

Stataphobia:

Stataphobia is a devastating disease which primarily afflicts scientists world wide. It renders scientists unresponsive, rejects their articles and prevents tenure. With the Library of Alexandria we plan to cure this horrible malady. Please forward this to your friends and students who now, or in the future will suffer from this debilitating disease.

Stataphobia is defined as a rapidly progressive disorder of scientists caused by statistical ignorance and fear

Virtually all scientists across the world suffer from this. I am a Stataphobic. Of the 500 articles I have published in 300 my research design and statistics were questioned. Almost every Nobel Prize winner, professor, academic has had this disease. Darwin, Copernicus, and Einstein had bouts of severe stataphobia. Stataphobia is the primary risk factor for the death of scientific articles and NIH Grants, it must be stopped

But every now and then I feel so insecure, I know that I just need you like, I've never done before.( Beatles)

All of us in research have symptoms of design insecurity and need research methods experts in oh so many ways . I am fortunate as 4 floors down are friends in statistics. However, in research limited universities and countries around the world, the only research expert might be half a country away, a major determinant of Stataphobia.

The Cure to Stataphobia: BA Superhelp desk

Help me get my feet back on the ground,  
Won't you please, please help me? (to plan and analyze my research???) (Beatles and me)

To prevent Stataphobia, every scientist should have your own virtual research counselor. A sure way to cure Stataphobia is to provide counselors to show the irrationality of our fear of Stats. This will lead to enormous psychological improvement and better publications. The Library of Alexandria SuperHelp desk will boost scientific productivity by giving every scientist a virtual research methods counselor, and will help prevent the global epidemic of Stataphobia.

Only 3% of the articles in international journals come from developing countries, despite the fact that 25% of the researchers are from developing countries and 80% of the people. As we have indicated, over 80% of the time articles are rejected it is because of research methods problems. The reality is that no matter how good one's hypothesis is from any place in the world an article will never be published unless the research methods are adequate. The BA SuperHelp desk can help stamp out this ugly disease.

The BA SuperHelp virtual desk will provide all of you a research methods hotline. Over 20 gray/no hair research experts have banded together to help provide advice. We will need other experts such as those having a significant publication record, or statistical training please join the Stataphobia vaccination team. We decided to start our effort in the bastion of civilization, Egypt, and set up the help desk for researchers in Egypt to see how it will work in February. In Egypt we of course have the Library of Alexandria leading the effort. We have a research expert, Eman Eltahlawy who has taken the lead. We will see how our efforts work in Egypt and then expand to other countries once we see the flow of questions.

The door to the prevention of Stataphobia:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/ResearchMethods/indexlight.htm>

Our door consists of 12 areas where there are likely going to be questions, e.g. bias, power calculation, sampling, etc. We have a Supercourse lecture and a wiki explanation.

It must be fate as the "Door to Research methods" = LaPorte 2 RESRCH

This trial period is designed to provide us an idea as to how much traffic we will receive.  
From Euclid to BA SuperHelp desk

I contacted the head of the Eastern Mediterranean Biometrics society, Professor Stergios Tzortzios. Dr. Tzortzios is from Greece and heads the EMBS. He is also a world leader on agriculture statistics. We are discussing with him and Dr. Serageldin a meeting linking the ancient Greeks like Euclid, with the library of Alexandria where the developed modern mathematical theory and science. What they did 1000s of years ago sets the stage for developing and teaching research methods help desks.

The past giant of Greece and Alexandria will lead us to improve the science of the world. In addition, we are discussing of holding a joint Greek-BA meeting to honor Euclid and the past, and how they have lead us

to the future of the BA superHelp desk. It is also fascinating as we have been discussing for years as to how we could link agriculture with global health as they are intertwined. One way is through our methods as agricultural research design have paved the way for health research. I was always fascinated with "split plot" designs. It is also of interest that there is no evidence that any of the Pharaohs and ancient Greeks suffered from Stataphobia, giving us a clue that this is a new, modern debilitating disease.

Door of the Week: We must highly recommend that you look at  
<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/ResearchMethods/indexlight.htm>

This is our door to research methods, and we would love your comments.

Please send your comments to [ronlaporte@gmail.com](mailto:ronlaporte@gmail.com). We plan to add a third column, that our youtube presentations as to how to use various statistical program for the analysis of data.

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" (WHO) Best Regards, Ron, Faina, Eugene, Francois, Nicholas, Gil, Mita, Ismail, Eric, Kawkab, Vint, Ali, Olga