

Transcript for the University Libraries Undergraduate Research Award 2012 –

Meet Jimmy: the 2012 Winner of the Libraries Undergraduate Research Award

<http://iminervapodcast.blogspot.com/2012/04/meet-jimmy-2012.html>

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(Kimberly Lutz interviews Jimmy Humphrey)

The university libraries undergraduate research award is given in recognition of an outstanding undergraduate research project by an individual or a group that best demonstrates the ability to locate, select, and synthesize information from library resources and uses those resources in the creation of an original research project in any media. The winning entry wins a cash prize of 500 dollars funded by the university libraries. This year it will be awarded on April 16<sup>th</sup> 2012 at the undergraduate honors convocation. What does it take to win the undergraduate research award. Let's chat with this year's winner Jimmy Humphrey.

JH: Hello

KL: Jimmy your paper missionary work politics, culture, and ethical globalization was written for Professor Campo's international global studies senior seminar. Can you tell us what drew you to the topic?

JH: Well I'm interested in missionary work and my wife is actually a missionary kid. And so for me I just wanted to know that if I were to go into missionary work in the future im going to do it the best way I can with the most like and be very culturally responsible and like just maintain that specific context but also being true to what im doing and not necessarily abusing cultural rights

KL: Well that's really interesting, was there any particular reason you wanted to focus on Africa and Latin America?

JH: Well I studied abroad in Botswana so studied abroad in Botswana I had personal connections to it. And so my paper specifically focused on southern Africa. And so it's just an area I knew about. Plus it was easier since most of the material was written in English since ya know you have British colonialism in the area, British influence. And so that's why I did it. And then also Latin America applies because that's where most of the controversy about the political connections of missionary's with the CIA comes out in Latin America. And so that's where I focused on

KL: So did you, were you expected to find what you did with about the connections with the CIA and that controversy in Latin America, were you aware of that before you started the research project.

JH: Yeah I was skeptical. And I guess I was skeptical about how about the actual connection and so I knew that you can interpret different histories to swing one way or another in regards to were actually doing the good work or if it's actually cultural imperialism. But reading actual newspaper articles and facts and stories about CIA involvement in Latin America with missionary's was really interesting.

KL: What would you say was the biggest difference in your research in the 19<sup>th</sup> century missionaries and the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century missionaries? Did you find any differences in purpose or differences in connection to their respect in the cultures they were visiting?

JH: Um most of it is context. Because in Latin America I was focusing on the connection between the Cia and missionaries and so the CIA wasn't really existent. And so for me most of it was the difference between the British colonial period and then America now as some type of neocolonialism. And so that's why I chose to do economic development. And focus on economic development because that's a concept that can be applicable to both time periods.

KL: Well it was really interesting in your paper to see the early missionaries and to understand a little bit more about the economic development that happened in Africa as they went in. but also the translation of the bible into native languages, which seems I think I'm remembering correctly happened both early in the missionary world you were exploring and continues today. One thing that struck all of us on the committee as we were assessing the wonderful crop of papers this year, Was that a project like yours that span different continents and centuries really needed a lot of library resources. Um, so what was most important for you in researching, what resources helped the most?

JH: Well just going to the library guide by subject tab and going in there and really exploring different subjects and fields and then going into or whatever portal your using. I found very helpful. But more specifically it was being very specific with my search terms and that's what I had to learn to do this project; To be specific with search terms so that I yield the right results.

KL: Can you give us an example of a specific search term?

JH: Alright so instead of just doing imperialism in missionaries you have to look for what you actually want, like CIA and missionaries, because if you just look for Cia and type Christianity you can find a whole lot of stuff, but if you just put us government and missionaries you'll find a whole lot of stuff, so you have to be specific.

KL: That's a great example

JH: Yeah

KL: So really a problem can be hitting too many results and if your not careful with your search terms. Um, was there one source in particular that was really helpful or maybe that you hasn't used before with this project

JH: Well actually I think it was EBSCO host, cause I wasn't use to using that so much or being able to find specific journalists through the journal finder, and so it was really good to find something referenced in a book and look up the journal in the library. And then go and find it.

KL: Oh that's great too, well and what you are saying is what we hope all our students do, look in the bibliographies of the books and articles that you have, and if you do what you are saying and plug those

into journal finder you can keep following the trail. So you mentioned that you continued this project after the original paper. Do you want to talk a little about where your research took you?

JH: Um so for this paper and talking on economic development and using that as a lens to study both 19<sup>th</sup> century, 20<sup>th</sup> century, and even 21<sup>st</sup> century missions. I took that framework and applied that to today for my senior thesis. And for my thesis I cut out the chunk about history, just because I was really looking at how missionary work applies to economic development of today.

KL: That's sounds great and I'm sure your happy to have the history in the back of your mind anyway as you carry on. Well you won this award; you wrote a very good paper, successfully used library resources, what advice do you give to the next crop of students who might apply for this award?

JH: I recommend just applying for it, because winning an award like this boost your self-esteem. Not saying I have low self-esteem. You never realize how good of a scholar you might be until you try to apply for an award you think you might not get.

KL: Well thank you