

## The Patron

My patron is an adult sibling of a person with a disability. She recently attended a conference at which she became a trained facilitator for “Sibshops,” a support program for siblings of children with disabilities. She is interested in journal articles authored by the creator and author of a guide on Sibshops, “Don Meyer.”

Me: Is it just Don Meyer’s work that you are interested in?

Patron: No, I want to see what others are doing. And what the research says.

Me: Can you tell me what you mean by “what others are doing?”

Patron: Yes, with their Sibshops. Or other supports for kids whose sibs have disabilities. I’m working on supports for adult children too, so the “kids” don’t have to be young.

Me: You mentioned research. Is there are particular aspect of the research that interests you or a way that you plan to use it that you’d like me to keep in mind?

Patron: Just how [having a sibling with a disability] affects them, or things they have learned about people whose siblings have disabilities.

Me: Okay. Anything else?

Patron: Maybe some resources for parents, things they can read or do to help the typically developing kids and their sibs.

My patron is employed by a private university and has access to its libraries. She will most likely be able to access anything I can access via online databases and Interlibrary Loan.

My search objectives are to locate and retrieve:

- Journal articles authored by “Don Meyer,” developer of “Sibshops
- Information about Sibshops and sibling supports in general
- Research-based publications on 1) sibling relationships among children with disabilities and typically developing children and 2) the effects on typically developing children of having a sibling with a disability
- Information for parents of children with disabilities about sibling issues

## The DIALOG Search

I began by searching the DIALOG file for ERIC.

After logging on to ERIC (**B1**), I searched for the author “Don Meyer”: **E AU= MEYER, D.** I selected the matches for Don and Donald E. (there was a Don E. which led me to believe that the “matching” Donald might have the middle initial E):

S1 20 AU='MEYER, D. E.' OR AU='MEYER, D. EUGENE' OR AU='MEYER, DON' OR AU='MEYER, DON E.' OR AU='MEYER, DON E., ED.' OR AU='MEYER, DONALD' OR AU='MEYER, DONALD E.'

I displayed the results (**TYPE S1/2/ALL**) and decided that the following records would be appropriate for my patron:

Conaway, Sally, and Meyer Donald. "Developing Support for Siblings of Young People with Disabilities." Support for Learning 23 (2008): 113-17.

Meyer, Donald. "Siblings of Children with Special Health and Developmental Needs: Programs, Services and Considerations. ARCH Factsheet Number 23." ARCH National Resource Center for Crisis Nurseries and Respite Care Services (1993).

Since I did not see the "Sibshops" publication my patron mentioned, I did a quick internet search to see how the author's name is listed on the publication. I found the book Sibshops: Workshops for Siblings of Children With Special Needs on Amazon.com; its author is listed as Donald J. Meyer. I returned to the expanded author list retrieved from E AU= MEYER, D. and selected the other matches for Don/Donald:

S2 12 AU='MEYER, DONALD H.' OR AU='MEYER, DONALD J.' OR AU='MEYER, DONALD L.' OR AU='MEYER, DONALD P.'

I displayed the results (**TYPE S2/2/ALL**) and decided that the following records would be appropriate for my patron:

Meyer, Donald. "SIBSHOPS: A Handbook for Implementing Workshops for Siblings of Children with Special Needs." Washington Univ., Seattle. Child Development and Mental Retardation Center. (1985).

I deduced that the author in question is Donald J. Meyer; the relevant publications I retrieved were indexed as being authored by "Meyer, Donald" and "Meyer, Donald J." I confirmed this with a Library of Congress Name Authority search.

I then decided to construct a search using the ERIC thesaurus. I searched for records having descriptors and identifiers related to disabilities:

S3 65876 (DISABILITIES OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES OR LEARNING DISABILITIES OR MENTAL RETARDATION OR ASPERGER SYNDROME OR AUTISM OR CEREBRAL PALSY OR DOWN SYNDROME)/DE, ID

Then for records having descriptors and identifiers related to siblings:

S4 3152 (SIBLING RELATIONSHIP OR SIBLINGS OR SISTERS OR BROTHERS)

Then for records having both:

S5 768 S3 AND S4

I displayed the results (**T S5/8/ALL**) and decided that several of the records would be appropriate for my patron; 20 are listed below (in reverse chronological order, the order in which they were retrieved):

- Canary, Heather. "Negotiating Dis/Ability in Families: Constructions and Contradictions ." Journal of Applied Communication Research 36 (2008): 437-458.
- Harris, Helen. "Meeting the Needs of Disabled Children and Their Families: Some Messages from the Literature." Child Care in Practice 14.4 (2008): 355-369.
- Barr, Jacqueline, Sharynne McLeod, and Graham Daniel. "Siblings of Children with Speech Impairment: Cavalry on the Hill." Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools 39.1 (2008): 21-32.
- Degeneffe, Charles Edmund and Marjorie Olney. "Future Concerns of Adult Siblings of Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury." Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin 51.4 (2008): 240-250.
- Mikami, Amori Yee and Linda J. Pfiffner. "Sibling Relationships among Children with ADHD." Journal of Attention Disorders 11.4 (2008): 482-492.
- Orsmond, Gael. I and M.M. Seltzer. "Siblings of Individuals with Autism or Down Syndrome: Effects on Adult Lives." Journal of Intellectual Disability Research 51.9 (2007): 682-696.
- Knox, Marie and Christine Bigby. "Moving towards Midlife Care as Negotiated Family Business: Accounts of People with Intellectual Disabilities and Their Families "Just Getting along with Their Lives Together." International Journal of Disability, Development and Education 54.3 (2007): 287-304.
- McGraw, Lori A and Alexis J. Walker. "Meanings of Sisterhood and Developmental Disability: Narratives from White Nondisabled Sisters." Journal of Family Issues 28.4 (2007): 474-500.
- McMahon, Caitlin R. and Elizabeth E. Malesa. "Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders Have Merited Concerns about Their Later-Born Infants." Research and Practice for Persons With Severe Disabilities 32.2 (2007): 154-160.
- Giallo, R. and S. Gavidia-Payne. "Child, Parent and Family Factors as Predictors of Adjustment for Siblings of Children with a Disability." Journal of Intellectual Disability Research 50.12 (2006): 937-948.
- Rosee, Penelope and Monica Cuskelly. "Adjustment, Sibling Problems and Coping Strategies of Brothers and Sisters of Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder." Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability 31.2 (2006): 77-86.
- Marks, Susan Unok, Amy Matson, and Lori Barraza. "The Impact of Siblings with Disabilities on Their Brothers and Sisters Pursuing a Career in Special Education." Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities 30.4 (2005): 205-218.
- Caro, Patricia and Jeffrey L. Derevensky. "An Exploratory Study Using the Sibling Interaction Scale: Observing Interactions between Siblings with and without Disabilities." Education and Treatment of Children 20.4 (1997): 383-403.

- Liska, Victoria D.. "The Sibling: A Lifelong Journey of Care." (1996)
- Pieper, Betty. "Sisters and Brothers, Brothers and Sisters in the Family Affected by Traumatic Brain Injury." Albany: New York State Head Injury Association. (1991)
- Mates, Thomas E. "Siblings of Autistic Children: Their Adjustment and Performance at Home and in School." Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders 20.4 (1990): 545-553.
- McHale, Susan M. et al. "Sibling Relationships and Adjustment in Children with Disabled and Nondisabled Brothers and Sisters." (1989)
- Hanold, Eleanor Johnson. "The Forgotten Children--Siblings of the Handicapped: A Family Systems Perspective." (1989)
- Ascione, Frank R. et al. "An Investigation of Four Dimensions of Siblings' Relationships of Handicapped/Nonhandicapped Sibling Dyads: Phase 1. Final Report, September 30, 1987 through September 29, 1988." Logan: Utah State Univ.(1988)
- Sourkes, Barbara M. "Siblings of the Child with a Life-Threatening Illness." Journal of Children in Contemporary Society 19.3-4 (1987): 159-184.

At this point I am pleased with what I have retrieved, but decide to search for two more terms: sibshop (as articulated by my patron) and sibship, a term used to describe sibling relationships that appeared in the results of my previous search.

S6 3 SIBSHOP?

I displayed the results (**TYPE S6/2/ALL**) and saw that two were included in my previous search results. I decided that the third record would be appropriate for my patron:

Laman, Effie and Michael Shaughnessy." An Interview with Don Meyer on Siblings of Individuals with Disabilities." Exceptional Parent 37.7 (2007): 42-46.

S7 25 SIBSHIP

I displayed the results (**TYPE S7/8/ALL**) and determined that none of the records met my patron's needs.

Satisfied with what I had retrieved in ERIC, I turned to MEDLINE.

**Display Sets for ERIC:**

S1	20	AU='MEYER, D. E.' OR AU='MEYER, D. EUGENE' OR AU='MEYER, DON' OR AU='MEYER, DON E.' OR AU='MEYER, DON E., ED.' OR AU='MEYER, DONALD' OR AU='MEYER, DONALD E.'
S2	12	AU='MEYER, DONALD H.' OR AU='MEYER, DONALD J.' OR AU='MEYER, DONALD L.' OR AU='MEYER, DONALD P.'
S3	65876	(DISABILITIES OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES OR LEARNING DISABILITIES OR MENTAL RETARDATION OR ASPERGER SYNDROME OR AUTISM OR CEREBRAL PALSY OR DOWN SYNDROME)/DE, ID
S4	3152	(SIBLING RELATIONSHIP OR SIBLINGS OR SISTERS OR BROTHERS)
S5	768	S3 AND S4
S6	3	SIBSHOP?
S7	25	SIBSHIP

For help in selecting the database to be searched in addition to ERIC, I consulted the Dialog Database Selection Guide (URL: [http://support.dialog.com/techdocs/co018002mi\\_dlg\\_dbseguide.pdf](http://support.dialog.com/techdocs/co018002mi_dlg_dbseguide.pdf)). I ultimately selected MEDLINE as my second database because a) the two journals on intellectual disabilities of which I am aware are indexed in MEDLINE and b) it is a component of PubMed, a database that is accessible to the person for whom I am searching.

In MEDLINE, I was especially interested in articles in journals published by the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disability (AAIDD). The MEDLINE bluesheet told me that "Journal Names are searchable as the full name and the abbreviated name, displayable as the full name." Not knowing the way the journal title is indexed in MEDLINE (especially since the journal name has changed over the years), I consulted the NLM's *List of Serials Indexed for Online Users* (<ftp://nlmpubs.nlm.nih.gov/online/journals/lsiweb.pdf>). I found that the journals I am interested in are indexed as: Ment Retard (Mental retardation) and Intellect Dev Disabil (Intellectual and developmental disabilities).

I searched for terms related to siblings in articles in the journals in which I was interested:

S1	73560	(SIB? OR BROTHER? OR SISTER?)
S2	2498	JN= (MENT RETARD OR INTELLECT DEV DISABIL)
S3	20	S1 AND S2

I displayed the results (**TYPE S3/5/ALL**) and decided that the following records would be appropriate for my patron:

Flaton, Robin A. "Who would I be without Danny?" phenomenological case study of an adult sibling." Mental retardation 44.2 (2006): 135-144.

Dykens, Elisabeth M. "Happiness, well-being, and character strengths: outcomes for families and Siblings of persons with mental retardation." Mental retardation 43.5 (2005): 360-364.

Seltzer, Marsha Mailick, Jan S. Greenberg, Gael Orsmond, and Julie Lounds. "Life course studies of siblings of individuals with developmental disabilities." Mental retardation 43.5 (2005): 354-359.

Stoneman, Zolinda. "Siblings of children with disabilities: research themes." Mental retardation 43.5 (2005): 339-250.

Hodapp, Robert M., Laraine Masters Glidden, and Ann P. Kaiser. "Siblings of persons with disabilities: toward a research agenda. Mental retardation 43.5 (2005): 334-338.

Krauss, M W, M M Seltzer, R Gordon, D H Friedman. "Binding ties: the roles of adult siblings of persons with mental retardation. Mental retardation 34.2 (1996): 83-93.

Wilson, J, J Blacher, and B L Baker. Siblings of children with severe handicaps. Mental retardation 27.3 (1989): 167-173.

Cleveland, D W and N Miller. Attitudes and life commitments of older siblings of mentally retarded adults: an exploratory study. Mental retardation 15.3 (1977): 38-41.

Since my controlled vocabulary search in ERIC was so successful, I thought I would do the same in MEDLINE. The bluesheet told me that "MEDLINE is indexed using NLM's controlled vocabulary, MeSH<sup>®</sup> (Medical Subject Headings). An online thesaurus is available to aid in locating MeSH<sup>®</sup> descriptors." I consulted the thesaurus, then searched for records having descriptors and identifiers related to disabilities:

S4 25144 DISABLED PERSONS/DE,ID

Then for records having descriptors and identifiers related to siblings:

S5 3134 SIBLINGS/DE,ID

Then for records having both:

S6 603 S4 AND S5

Due to the nature of the database, many of the records related to medical studies of children with disabilities and their siblings; for example, "Leptin levels among prepubertal children with Down syndrome compared with their siblings." I did find a few that would be appropriate for my patron:

Giallo R and S Gavidia-Payne S. "Child, parent and family factors as predictors of adjustment for siblings of children with a disability. Journal of intellectual disability research 50.12 (2006): 937-948.

Lobato, Debra J Brief report: family-based group intervention for young siblings of children with chronic illness and developmental disability. Journal of pediatric psychology 30.8 (2005)

At this point I felt as if I had exhausted MEDLINE's offerings on the topic, but wanted to replicate the two ERIC searches that used my patron's language: Don Meyer and sibshops.

I initially entered the **E AU=MEYER, D** command, but did not retrieve any results. I deduced that author names were indexed without commas in MEDLINE and retrieved records for **AU=MEYER DONALD J** and **AU=MEYER D J**.

S7 4 AU='MEYER DONALD J'  
S8 153 AU='MEYER D J'

None of the records I retrieved related to sibshops or siblings of children with disabilities; this did not surprise me, as any relevant works by Don Meyer should have been retrieved in the other MEDLINE searches. I then entered my sibshop search: **S SIBSHOP?** which retrieved one record.

S9 1 SIBSHOP?

I displayed the results (**TYPE S9/3/ALL**) and decided that it was relevant to my patron:

D'Arcy, Fiona, Jacinta Flynn, Yvonne McCarthy, Catherine O'Connor, and Edel Tierney. "Sibshops: an evaluation of an interagency model." Journal of intellectual disabilities 9.1 (2005: 43-57.

I concluded my MEDLINE search by entering the logoff command.

#### Display Sets for MEDLINE:

S1	73560	(SIB? OR BROTHER? OR SISTER?)
S2	2498	JN= (MENT RETARD OR INTELLECT DEV DISABIL)
S3	20	S1 AND S2
S4	25144	DISABLED PERSONS/DE,ID
S5	3134	SIBLINGS/DE,ID
S6	603	S4 AND S5
S7	4	AU='MEYER DONALD J'
S8	153	AU='MEYER D J'
S9	1	SIBSHOP?