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### **From literature reviews to specialized corpora: Individualized corpora for ESP<sup>1</sup>**

Four international PhD students who wished to improve their English academic reading and vocabulary worked with their instructor using a variety of electronic resources to search their specialist literature, produce focused literature reviews, and analyze the technical and academic language they needed to work on. The students were pre-candidates in Community Health, Nursing, Educational Studies, and Anthropology.

With guidance from a specialist librarian, students used on-line abstract databases to perform the background literature searches for the introductions to their research theses. They gathered the resultant electronic articles and readings and collated them into individualized corpora. They turned these into frequency-sorted lists of words and formulas and they used rating scales to identify the level at which they started to be unsure of the meaning or usage of academic and technical constructions. The students utilized their texts and other academic corpora to identify, learn, and use relevant specialist linguistic constructions. On-line dictionaries, thesauruses, and corpus analysis tools for lexical profiling and concordancing from Tom Cobb's *Complete Lexical Tutor* provided Instructional Technology support for the course. Students also used their individual corpora to help them develop lexical inferencing skills involving the analysis of context and of word parts, and the stylistic evaluation skills relevant to their build argument structures appropriate to their genre.

This paper describes their experiences and progress.

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