


# The Published Numeracy Network

**Len Vacher**

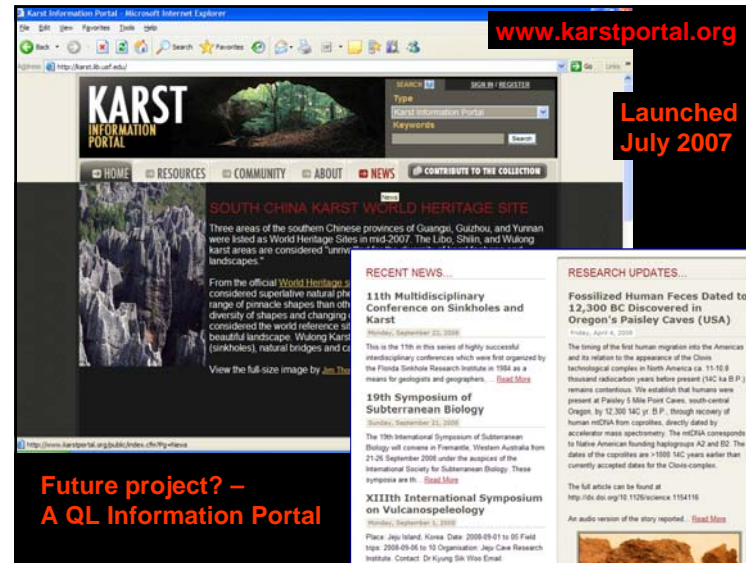
**Todd Chavez**      Collection Analysis and Technical Services Director  
USF Libraries  
(i.e., assistant dean for information science)



**Travels with Todd, the guy behind Numeracy**

Our first project →

May 17 2008  
Colby-Sawyer College



**www.karstportal.org**

**Launched July 2007**

**Future project? – A QL Information Portal**

## Conversation behind the scene (actually before the scene)

April 2005

Len (introducing himself to Todd): *I'm Len Vacher, from Geology.*

Todd: *I know who you are.*

Len (thinking what now?): *Oh?*

Todd: *You're the guy from the National Numeracy Network.*

Len (thinking Good Grief!): *How did you know?*

Todd (thinking Dummie!): *I Googled you.*

Pause

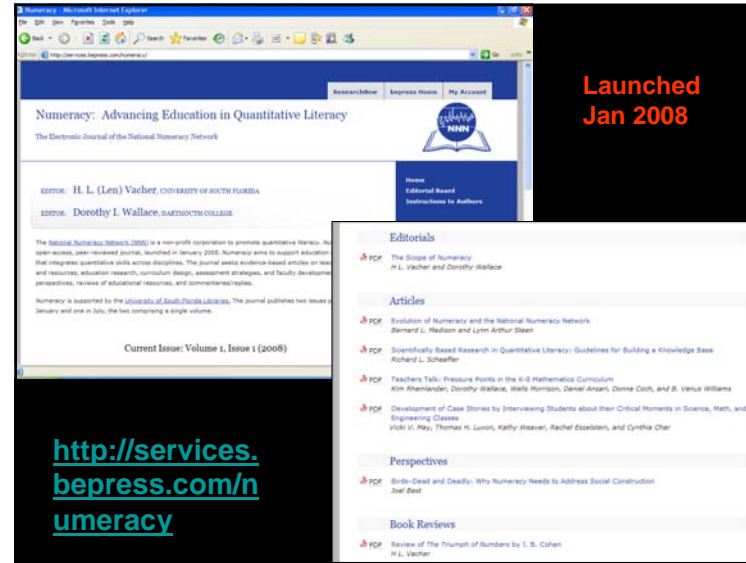
Todd: *So what is it you NNN people want to accomplish?*

And Len recited the vision and mission statement, perhaps paraphrasing.

Todd: *So what is it you really want to accomplish?*

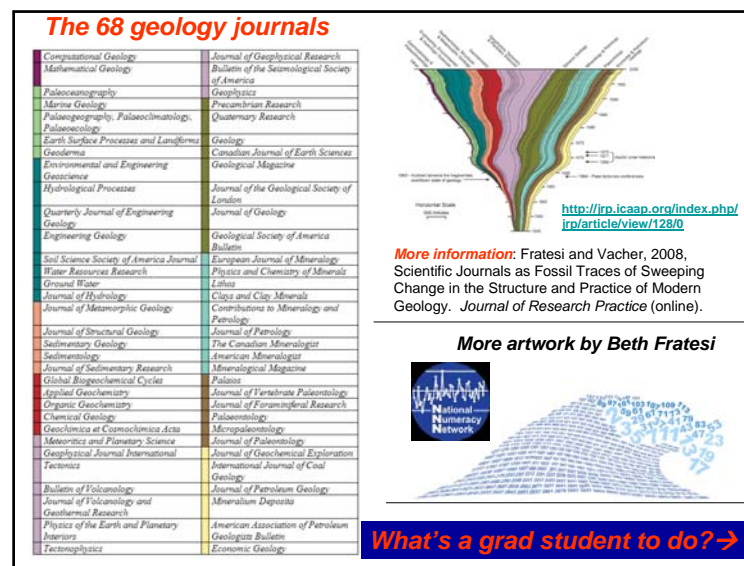
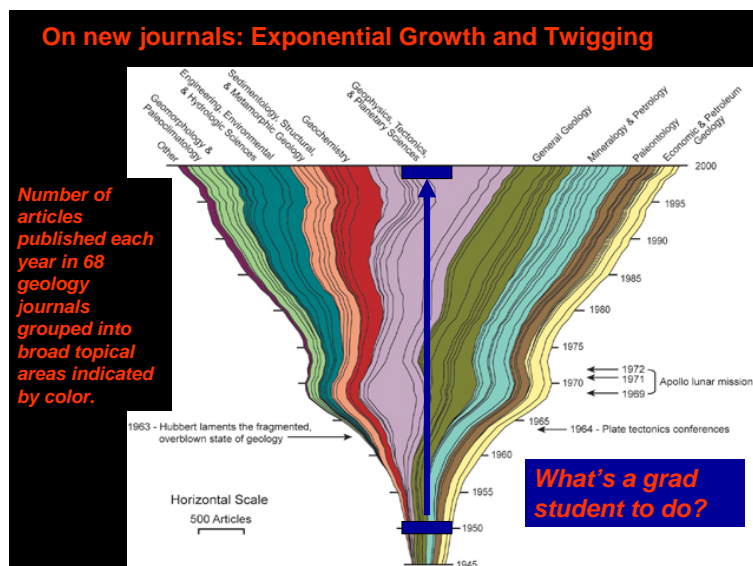
Len: *I guess I'd like to see QL become its own academic discipline (transcending disciplines)*

Todd: ***What you all need is a scholarly journal!***  
*If it's open access, we'll help. (!!)*



**Launched Jan 2008**

**http://services.bepress.com/numeracy**



Todd: **Priority role of our Library is to prepare USF PhD students to write the literature review for their dissertations.**

Len to Todd: **What we (Geology) need is a course! (Sep 2007)**

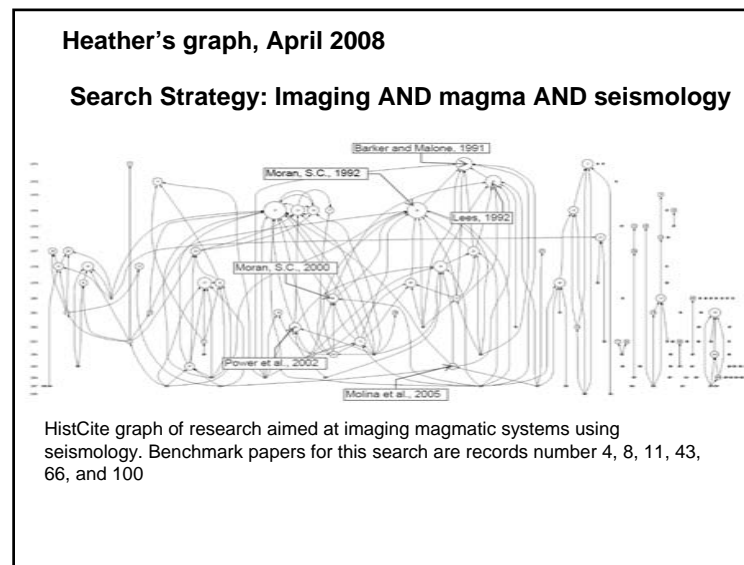
First major component:  
Finding the peer-reviewed research literature in impact journals

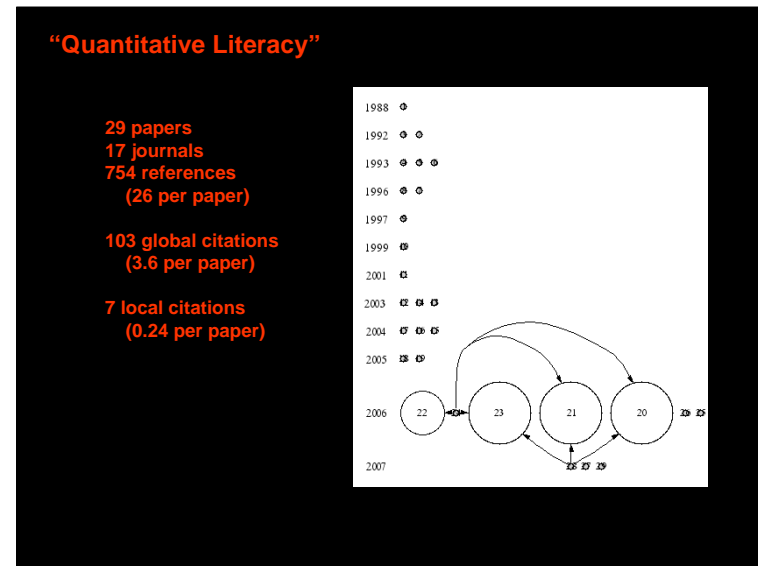
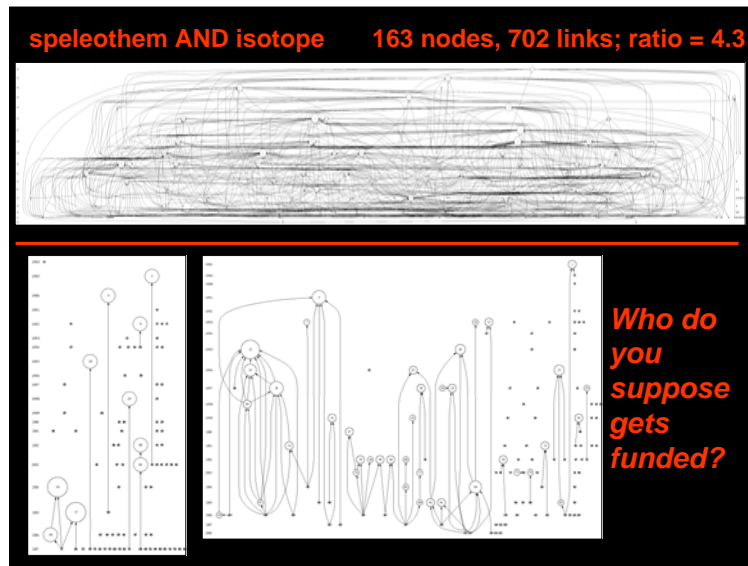
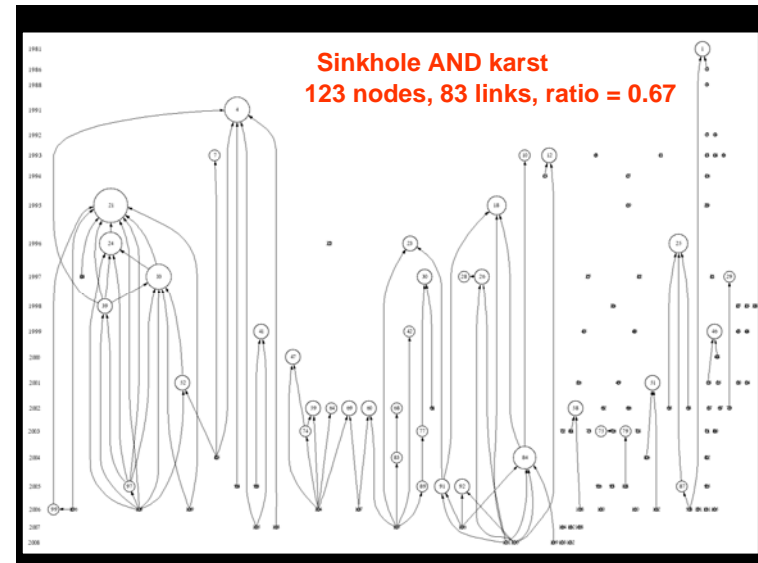
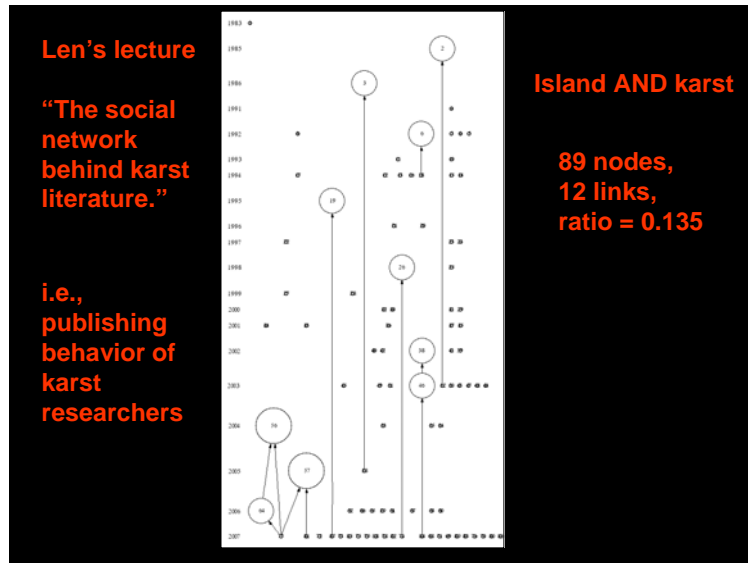
Indexed by **Web of Science (Science Citation Index)**  
9300 journals  
256 subject classes (tags)  
source of "impact journal" (IF)

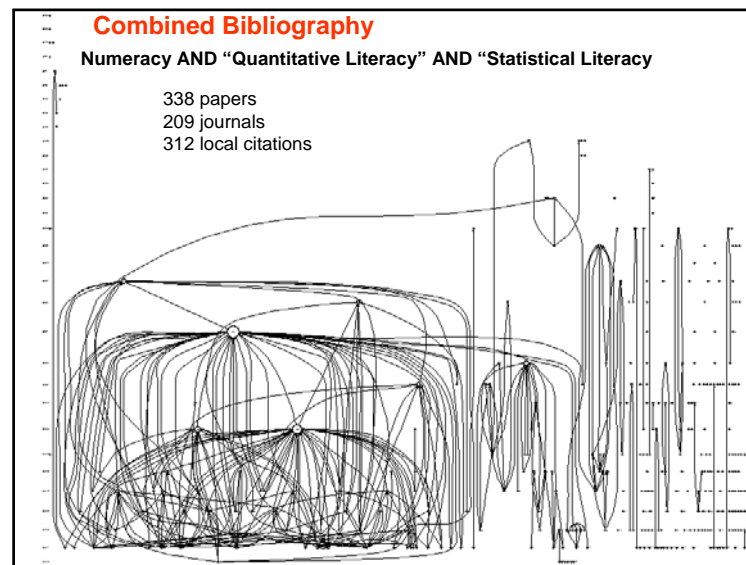
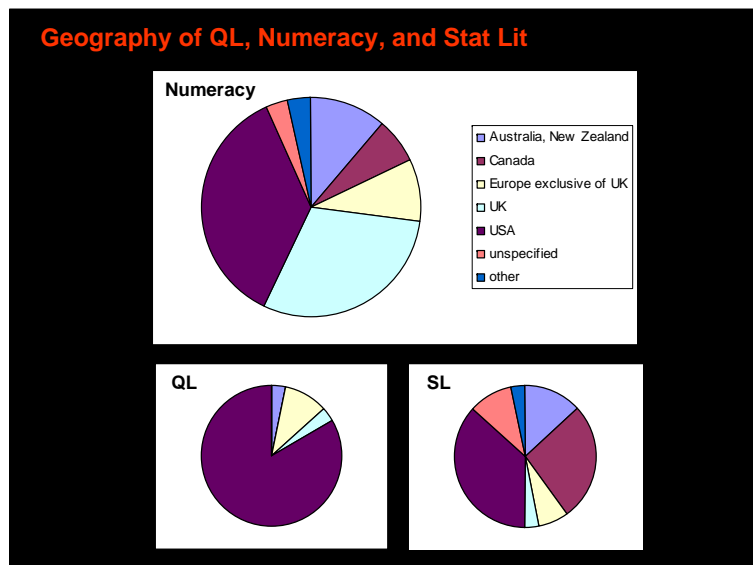
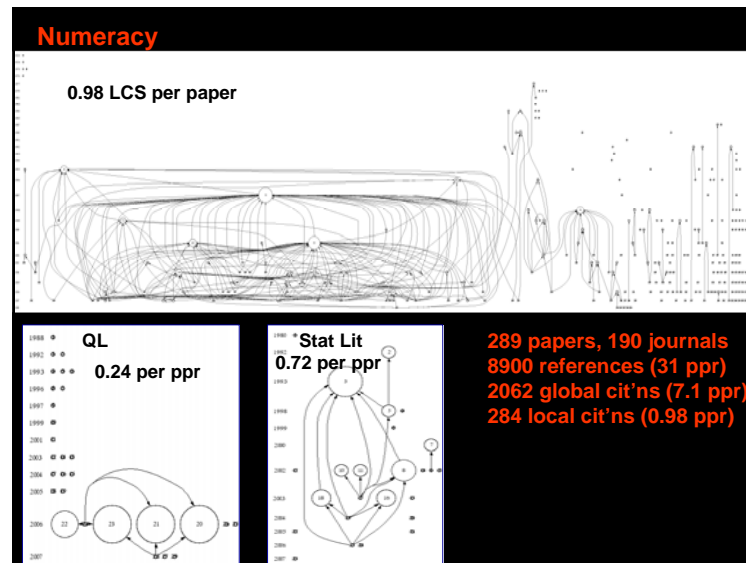
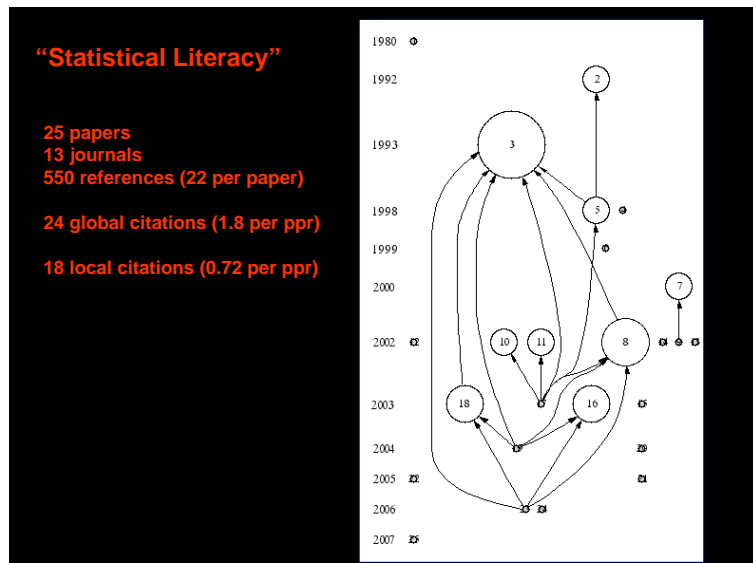
**Concepts for graduate students:**

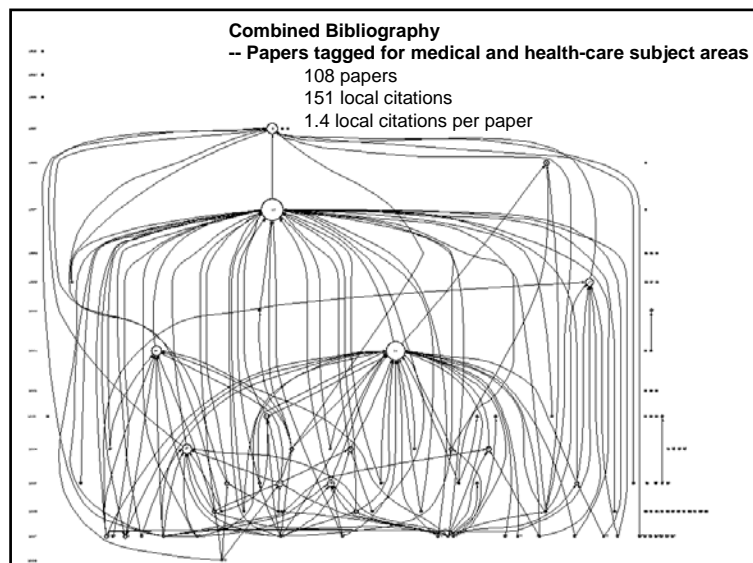
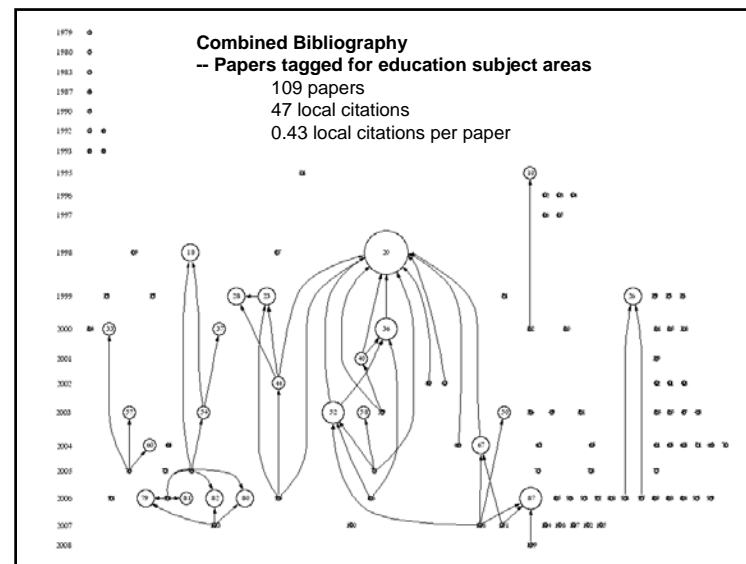
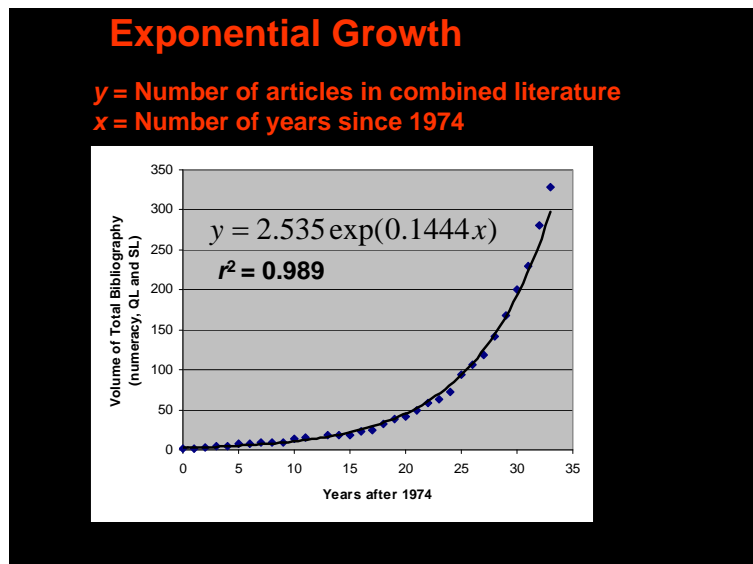
- It doesn't count as research until it's published.
- It's not "published" if it's not published in an impact journal.

**Caveat:** WoS does not include all journals, nor (in general), monographs or books, edited volumes, grey literature, Web sites.









**Title:** INADEQUATE FUNCTIONAL HEALTH LITERACY AMONG PATIENTS AT 2 PUBLIC HOSPITALS

**Source:** JAMA-JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION 274 (21): 1677-1682

**Date:** 1995 DEC 6

**Document Type:** Journal : Article

**Language:** English

**LCR: 0 CR: 48 LCS: 11 GCS: 314**

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UNIV CALIF LOS ANGELES, HARBOR MED CTR, DEPT EMERGENCY MED, TORRANCE, CA.  
GEORGIA STATE UNIV, CTR STUDY ADULT LITERACY, ATLANTA, GA 30303.

**Reprint:** WILLIAMS, MV, EMORY UNIV, SCH MED, DEPT MED, DIV GEN MED, 69 BUTLER ST SE, ATLANTA, GA 30303.

**Abstract:** **Objective:** To determine the ability of patients to complete successfully basic reading and numeracy tasks required to function adequately in the health care setting. **Design:** cross-sectional survey. **Setting:** two urban, public hospitals. **Patients:** A total of 2659 predominantly minority patients. **Main Outcome Measure:** 1892 English-speaking and 767 Spanish-speaking, presenting for acute care. **Measures:** Functional health literacy as measured by the Test of Functional Health Literacy in Adults (TOFHLA), an instrument that measures ability to read and understand medical instructions and health care information presented in prose passages and passages containing numerical information (eg, prescription bottle labels and appointment slips). **Results:** A high proportion of patients were unable to read and understand written basic medical instructions. Of 2659 patients, 1106 (41.6%) were unable to comprehend directions for taking medication on an empty stomach, 691 (26%) were unable to understand information regarding when a next appointment is scheduled, and 1582 (59.5%) could not understand a standard informed consent document. A total of 665 (35.1%) of 1892 English-speaking patients and 473 (61.7%) of 767 Spanish-speaking patients had inadequate or marginal functional health literacy. The prevalence of inadequate or marginal functional health literacy among the elderly (age greater than or equal to 60 years) was 61.3% (187/303) for English-speaking patients and 82.6% (172/208) for Spanish-speaking patients, and was significantly higher ( $P < .001$ ) than in younger patients. **Conclusions:** Many patients at our institutions cannot perform the basic reading tasks required to function in the health care environment. Inadequate health literacy may be an important barrier to patients' understanding of their diagnoses and treatments, and to receiving high-quality care.

As a *Numeracy* editor,  
What have I learned from my travels with Todd?

**On Forming a new discipline: Think of your new  
discipline as a new silo with pervious boundaries.**

*Therefore:*

Have your journal (and other  
materials) open access.

Cite one another.

Use stand-alone abstracts.

Have meaningful titles.