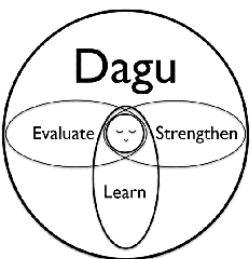


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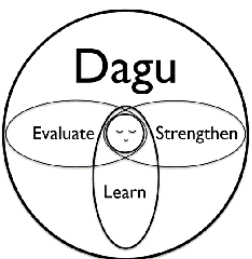
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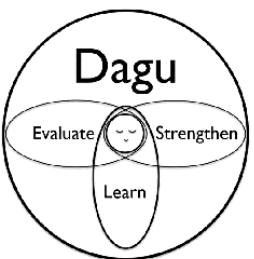
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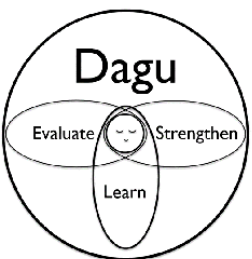


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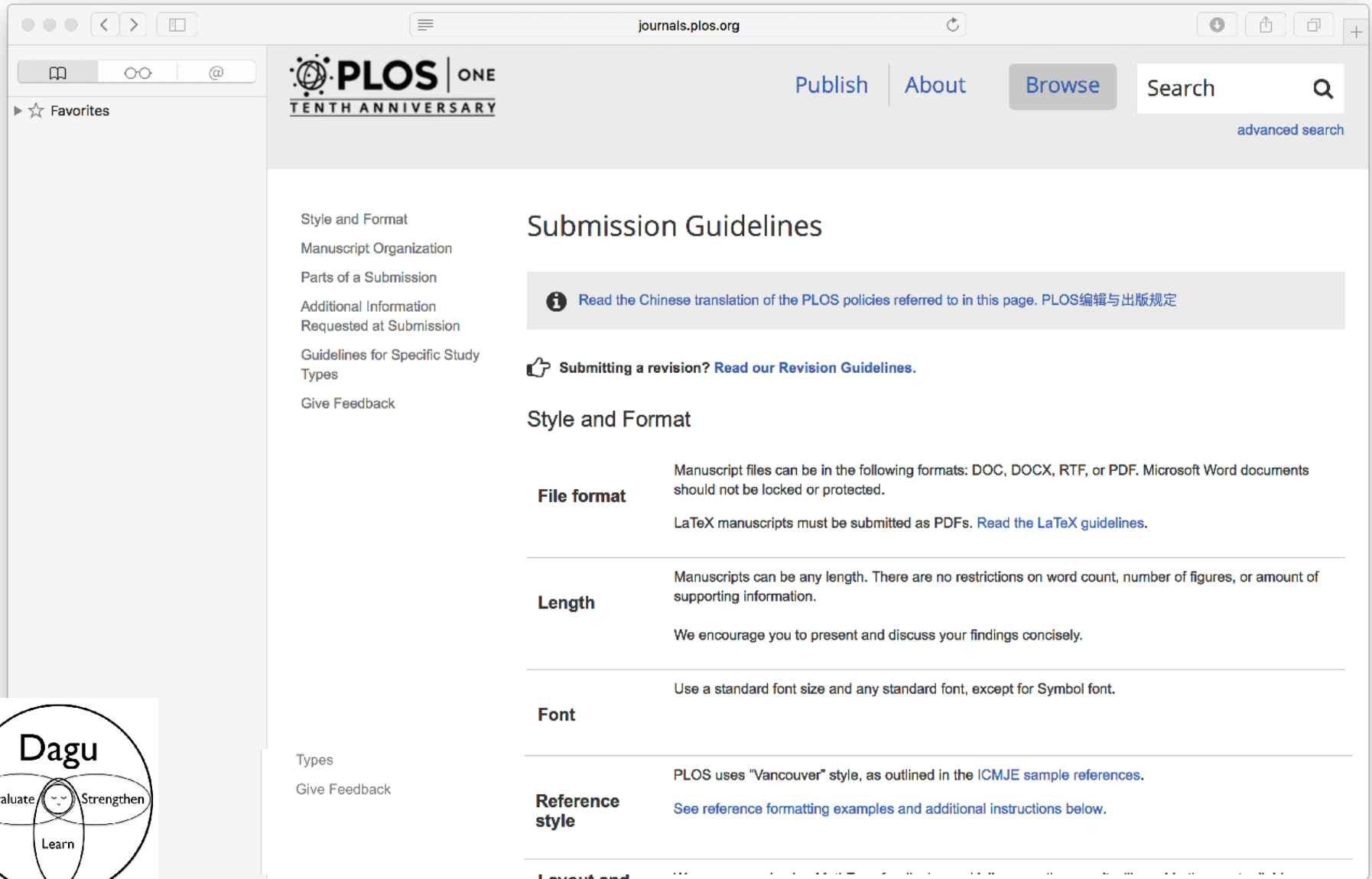
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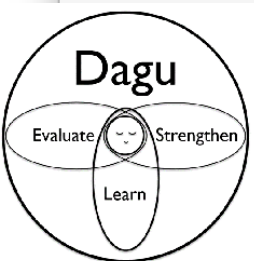
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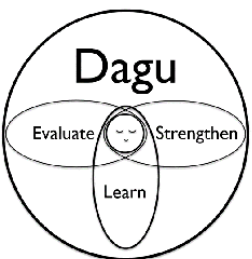


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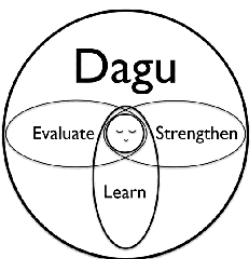


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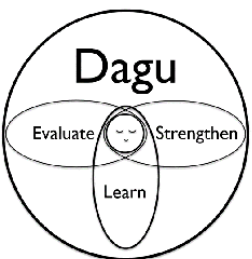
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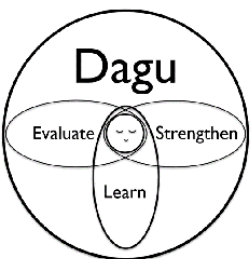
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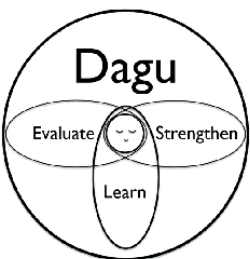
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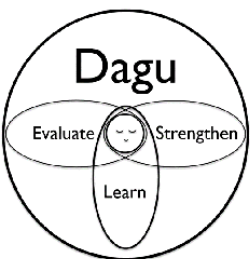
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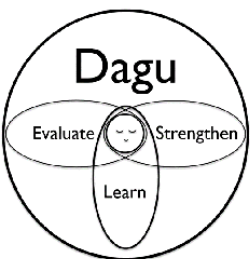
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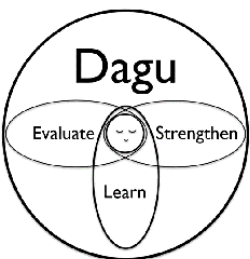
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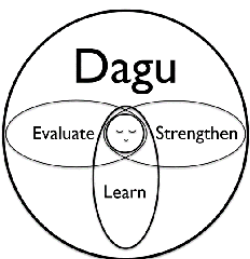
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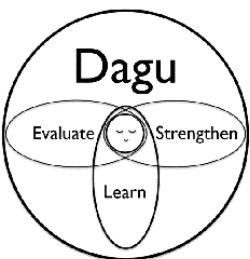
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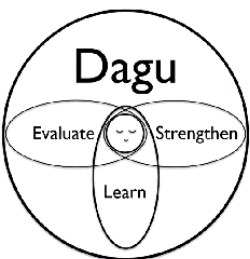
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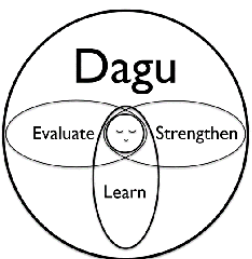
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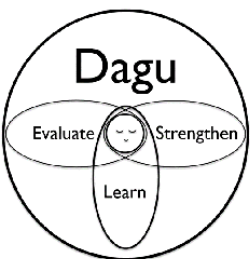
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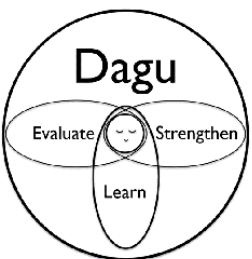
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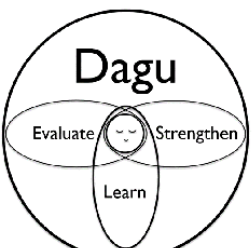


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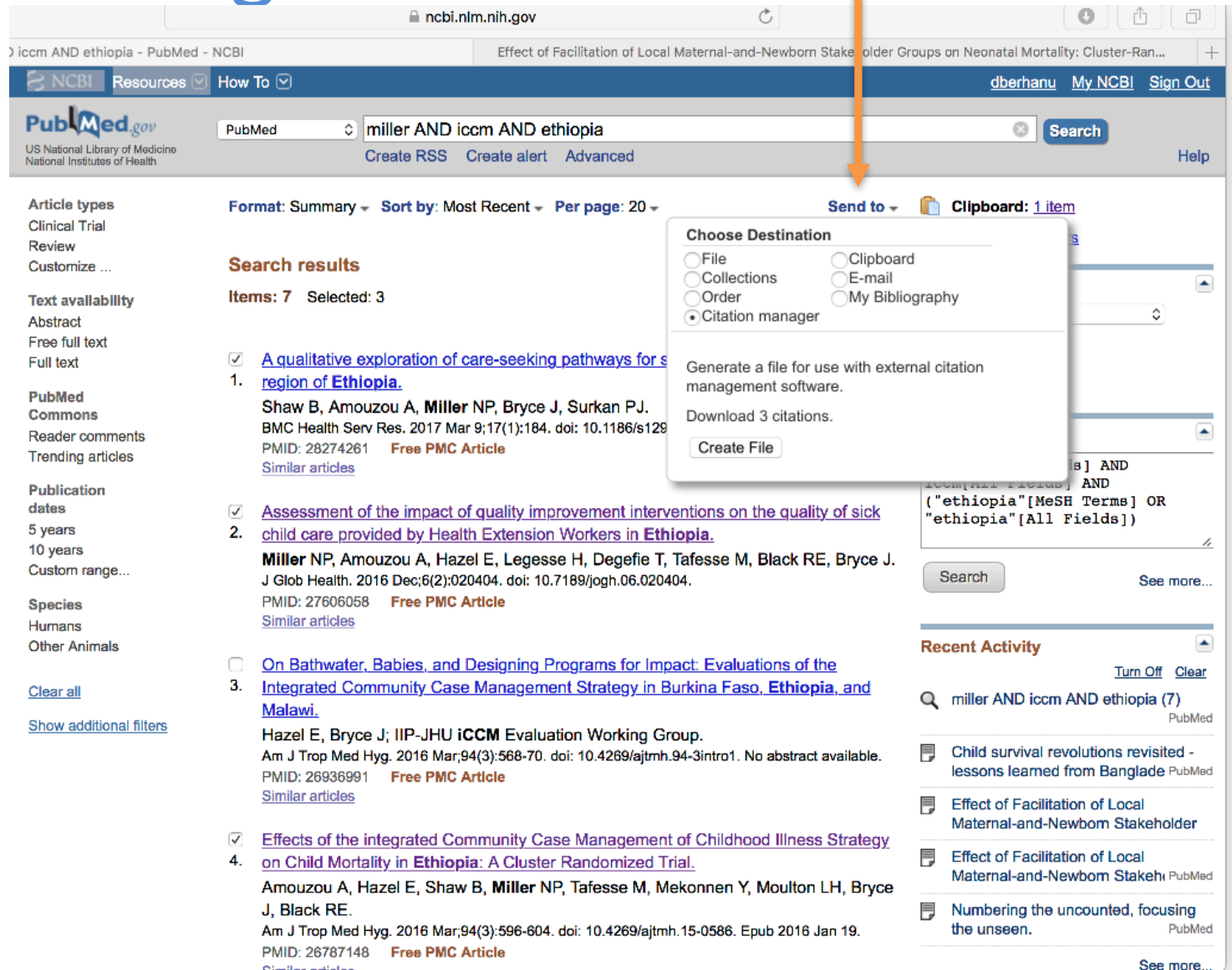
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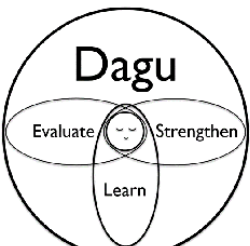
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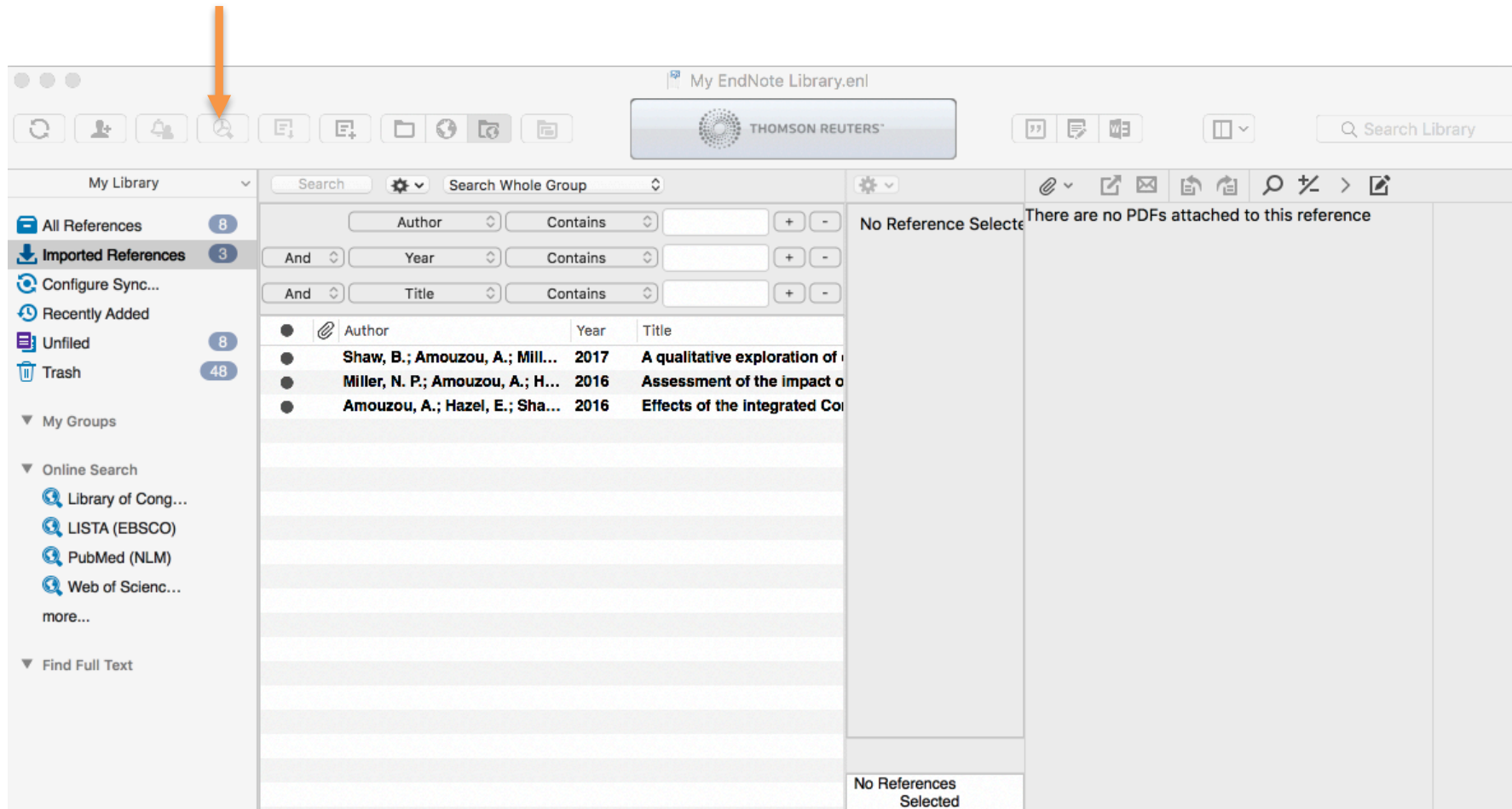
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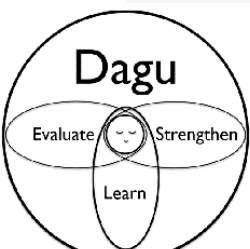
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Black, R. E.

Year
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Title
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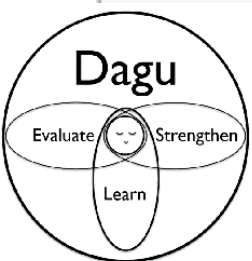
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A qualitative exploration of care-seeking pathways for sick children in the rural Oromia region of Ethiopia

Bryen Shaw¹, Agness Amouzou¹, Nathan P. Miller¹, Jennifer Bryce¹ and Pamela J. Surkan^{2*}

Abstract

Background: Ethiopia has experienced rapid improvements in its healthcare infrastructure, such as through the recent scale up of integrated community case management (ICCM) delivered by community-based health extension workers (HEWs) targeting children under the age of five. Despite notable improvements in child outcomes, the use of HEWs delivering ICCM remains very low. The aim of our study was to explain this phenomenon by examining care-seeking practices and treatment for sick children in two rural districts in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia.

Methods: Using qualitative methods, we explored perceptions of child illness, influences on decision-making processes occurring over the course of a child's illness and caregiver perceptions of available community-based sources of child illness care. Seven focus group discussions (FGDs) and 40 in-depth interviews (IDIs) were held with mothers of children under age five. For additional perspective, 18 IDIs were conducted with fathers and 22 IDIs with health extension workers and community health volunteers.

Results: Mothers often described the act of care-seeking for a sick child as a time of considerable uncertainty. In particular, mothers of sick children described the cultural, social and community-based resources available to minimize this uncertainty as well as constraints and strategies for accessing these resources in order to receive treatment for a sick child. The level of trust and familiarity with the most common dynamics noted as influencing care-seeking strategies, trust in biomedical and government providers was often low.

Conclusions: Overall, our research highlights the multiple and dynamic influences on care-seeking for sick children in rural Ethiopia. An understanding of these influences is critical for the success of existing and future health interventions and continued improvement of child health in Ethiopia.

Keywords: Care-seeking, Child health, Health care utilization, Rural communities, Ethiopia, Qualitative research

Background

Ethiopia has recently made notable progress in child health outcomes, including meeting the fourth Millennium Development Goal (MDG-4) target of reducing under-five child mortality by two-thirds since 1990 [1]. Much of this success has been attributed to the rapid expansion of health care infrastructure, primary care coverage and scale up of community-based child health interventions in Ethiopia's underserved and largely rural communities [2, 3]. Despite these improvements, utilization of biomedical sources of care for sick children remains low, with less than one-third of caregivers seeking care from their nearest for a sick child with diarrhea, malaria or pneumonia. Consequently, rates of use of evidence-based child illness treatments such as oral rehydration solution (ORS) for diarrhea, unadvisable for malaria and antibiotics for pneumonia are also low [4].

To try to account for these trends, most public health studies are quantitative and focus on specific barriers to access such as cost and transportation or key demographic characteristics associated with use of biomedical

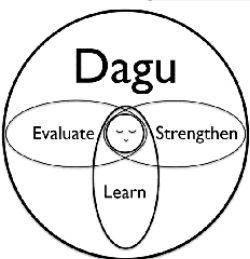
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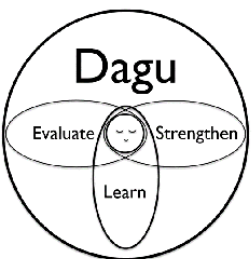
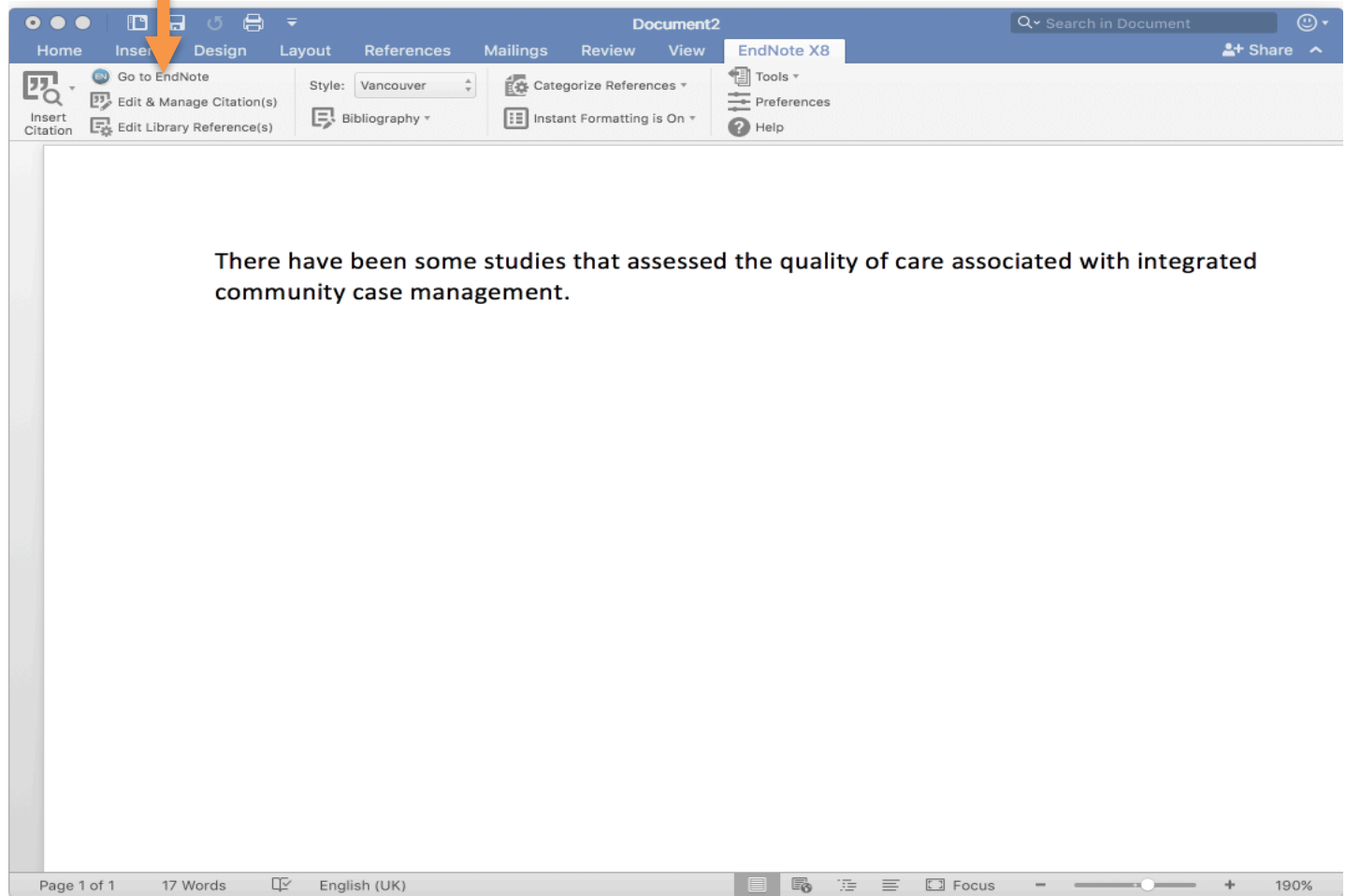
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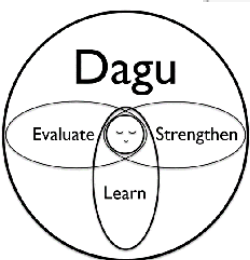
1. Miller NP, Amouzou A, Hazel E, Legesse H, Degefie T, Tafesse M, et al. Assessment of

Assessment of the impact of quality improvement interventions on the quality of sick child care provided by Health Extension Workers in Ethiopia

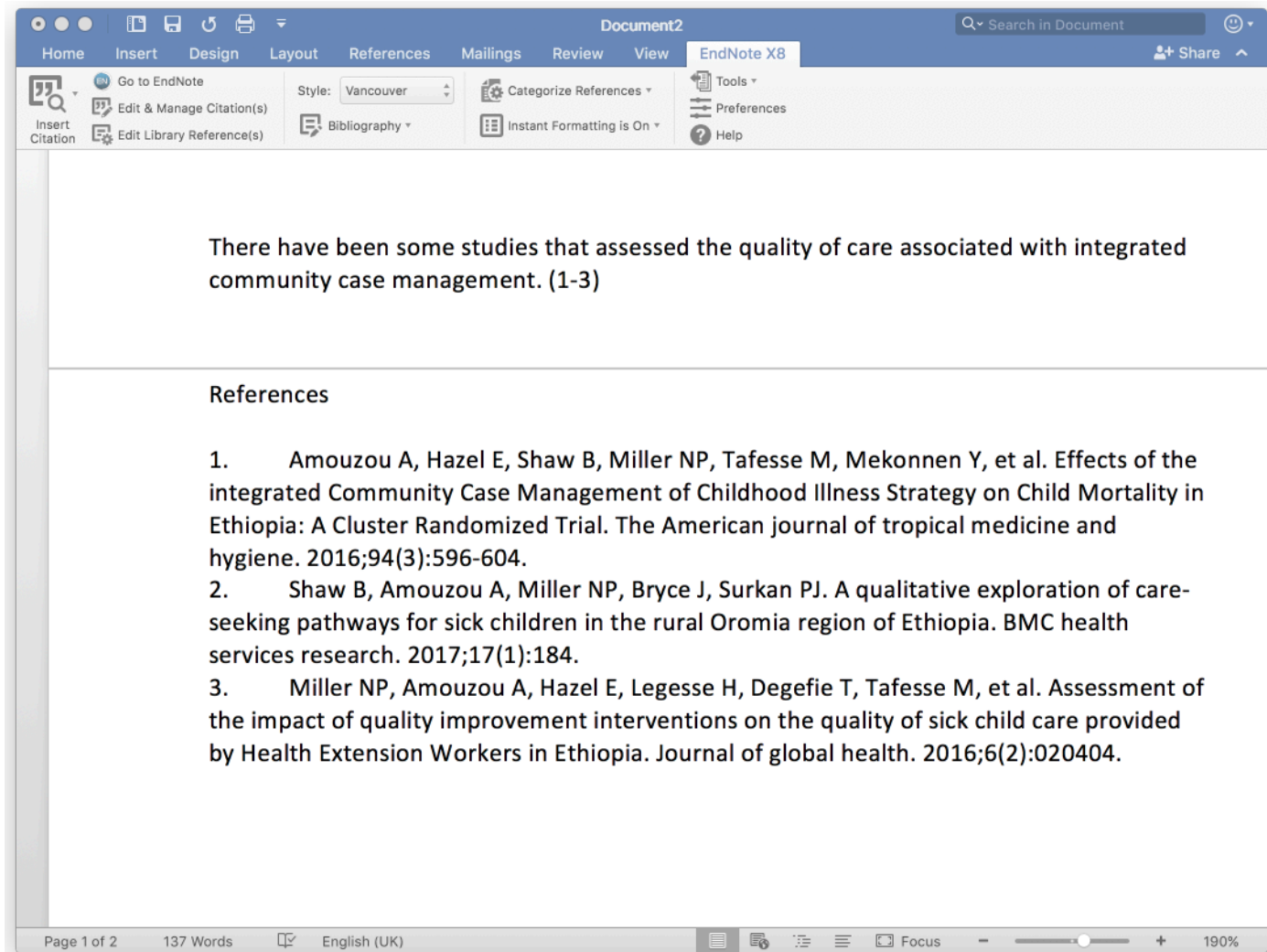
Background Sick child care is a critical component of the health system in Ethiopia. The quality of sick child care provided by Health Extension Workers (HEWs) is a key determinant of the health of the population. This study aimed to assess the impact of quality improvement interventions on the quality of sick child care provided by HEWs in Ethiopia.

Methods A quasi-experimental study was conducted in Ethiopia. The study involved a pre-test and post-test design. The pre-test was conducted in 2014 and the post-test was conducted in 2016. The study involved a pre-test and post-test design. The pre-test was conducted in 2014 and the post-test was conducted in 2016. The study involved a pre-test and post-test design. The pre-test was conducted in 2014 and the post-test was conducted in 2016.

Conclusions This study suggests that quality improvement interventions can improve the quality of sick child care provided by HEWs in Ethiopia. The study also suggests that quality improvement interventions can improve the quality of sick child care provided by HEWs in Ethiopia.



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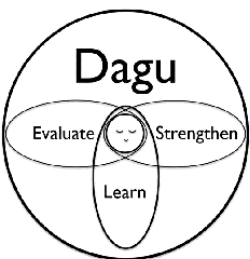
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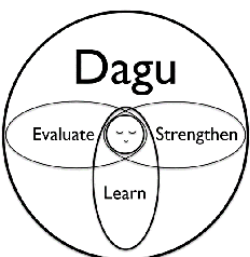
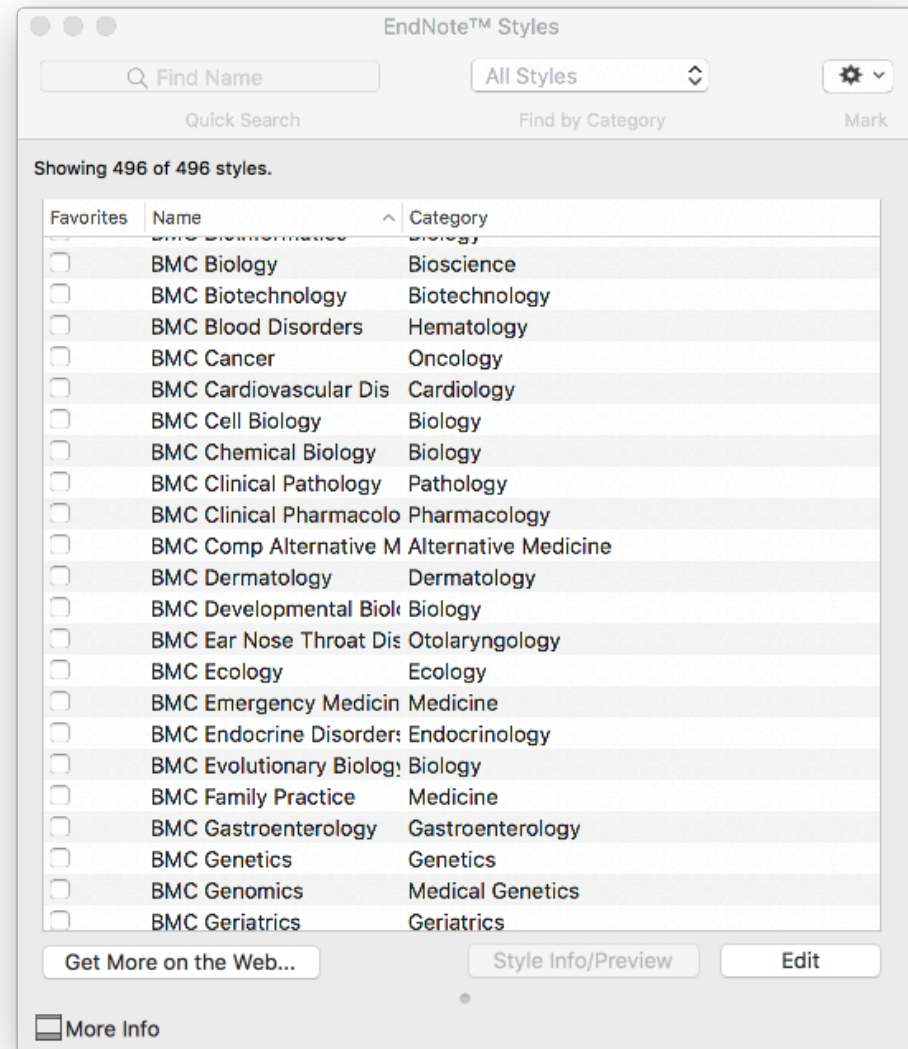
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1. Amouzou A, Hazel E, Shaw B, Miller NP, Tafesse M, Mekonnen Y, et al. Effects of the integrated Community Case Management of Childhood Illness Strategy on Child Mortality in Ethiopia: A Cluster Randomized Trial. The American journal of tropical medicine and hygiene. 2016;94(3):596-604.
2. Shaw B, Amouzou A, Miller NP, Bryce J, Surkan PJ. A qualitative exploration of care-seeking pathways for sick children in the rural Oromia region of Ethiopia. BMC health services research. 2017;17(1):184.
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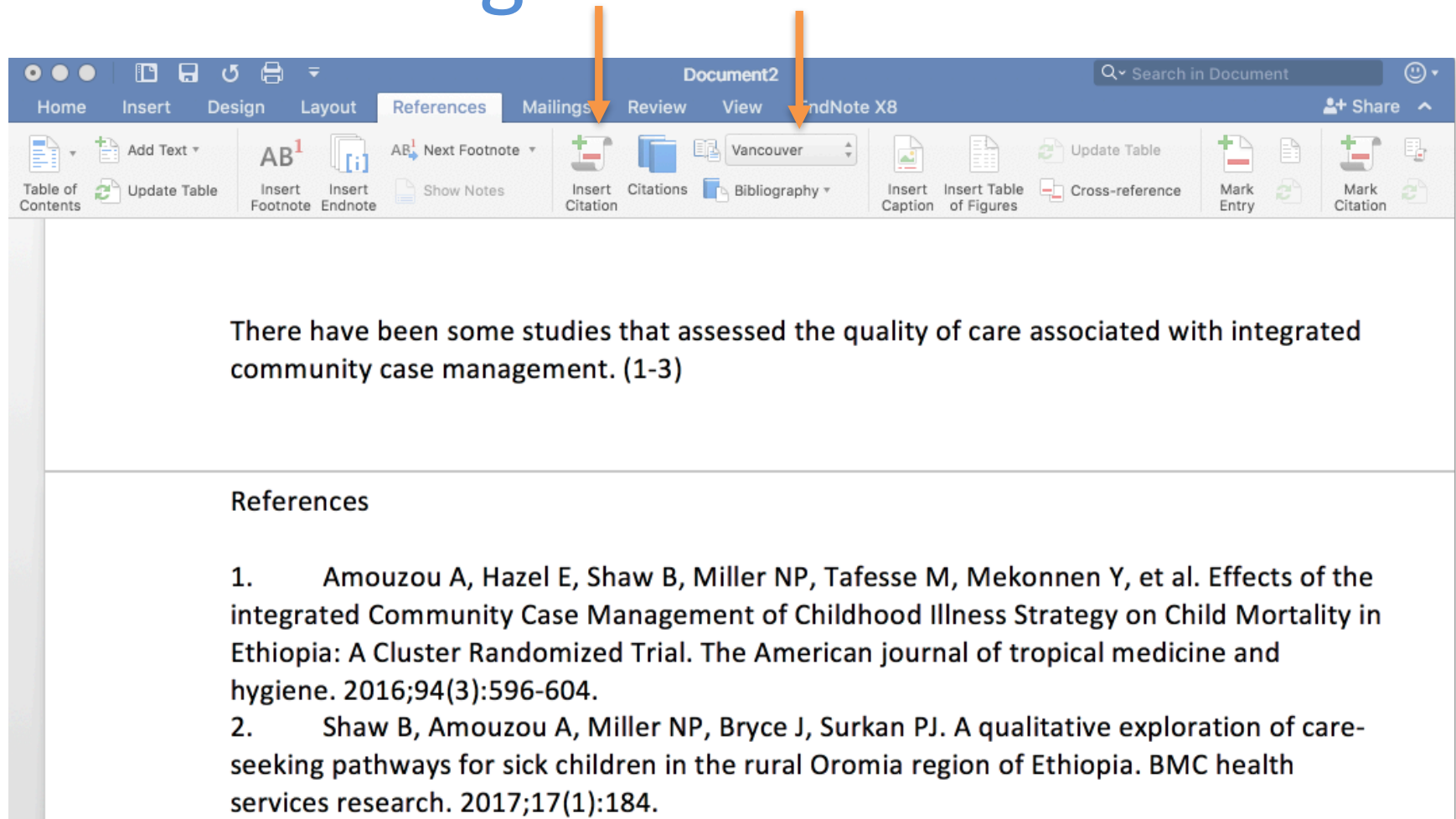
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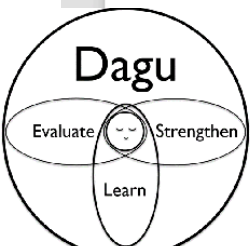
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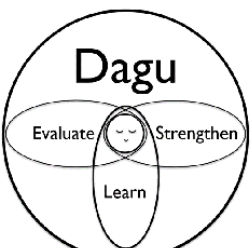
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