UNT® | DIVISION OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION

HOW TO SUBMIT A CONFERENCE PROPOSAL AND PRESENT YOUR RESEARCH

CONTENTS

WHY PRESENT RESEARCH?

Inform the Public

People have questions, and research answers those questions. By presenting your research, you inform the public of your findings and potentially educate them and answer their questions.

Spread the Topic

You might be working on a topic that is not well know. By presenting it in conference, you create awareness of your project which might inspire other researchers and create an impact in your field.

Receive Funds

Some organizations or foundations may be dedicated to funding projects, however that doesnt mean that they will understand what you are working on. You have to be able to present your reaserch project to them in order to convince them to give you more money.

WHAT PRESENTING RESEARCH LOOK LIKE

Conferences

Conferences are usually places designated for the presentation of research in specific fields. A professor may ask you to attend a conference with them, or ask your team to present in the conference. There might be seminars and information booths where you explain your research to other professionals across your field and others.

Posters and PowerPoints

The best way to present your research at a conference or to a group of people is by the use of visuals such as a poster or PowerPoint. In many cases, you might be asked to create the poster or PowerPoint. In which case, you will have to learn to summarize your work in the most efficient manner to present it.

Articles

Presenting research isn't always talking in front of crowd, essays and articles are also a way to present you research. You will help write articles and explain to your audience the process of the research and why your topic is impactful.

WHO TO PRESENT RESEARCH TO ?

Professors   **Conferences**   **Peers**   **Community**

When attending events, university or not, there will be plenty of professors who will take an interest in the work you do.

When attending university events, it is quite likely you will be presenting to your peers in the field, or perhaps in class to spread awareness of the project to more people.

Conferences are a great place to present research, and there will be a variety of people from professionals in the field, to funding groups to the regular person simply interested in getting started.

Knowledge is for everyone, and the community is not stop to that. Normal community members may be curious about what is going on as well and will attend conferences and scholarly events.
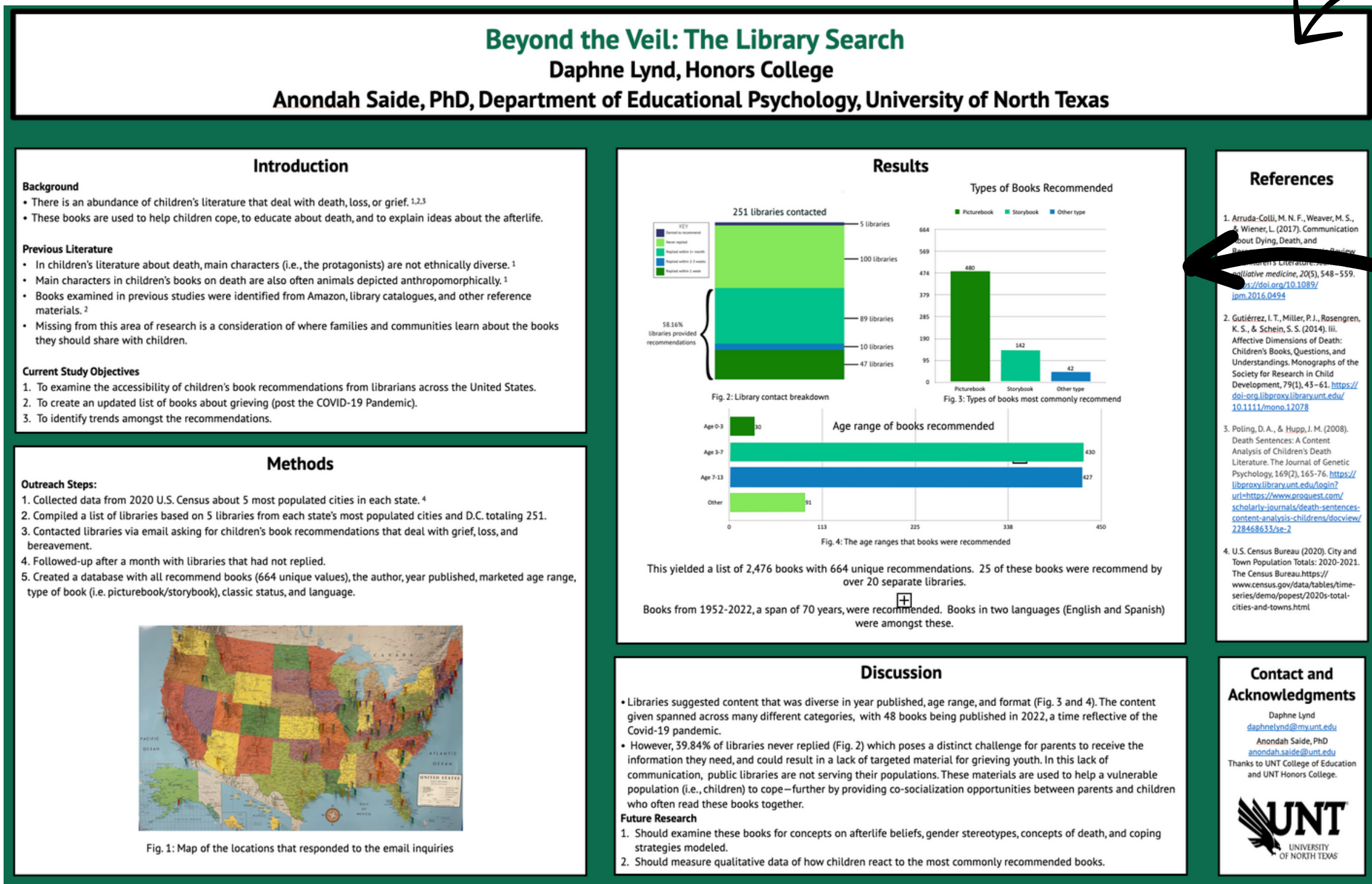
WHAT TO INCLUDE ON A POSTER

Beyond the Veil: The Library Search

Daphne Lynd, Honors College

Anondah Saide, PhD, Department of Educational Psychology, University of North Texas

Introduction

Background
- There is an abundance of children's literature that deal with death, loss, or grief. [1,2,3]
- These books are used to help children cope, to educate about death, and to explain ideas about the afterlife.

Previous Literature
- In children's literature about death, main characters (i.e., the protagonists) are not ethnically diverse. [1]
- Main characters in children's books on death are also often animals depicted anthropomorphically. [1]
- Books examined in previous studies were identified from Amazon, library catalogues, and other reference materials. [2]
- Missing from this area of research is a consideration of where families and communities learn about the books they should share with children.

Current Study Objectives
1. To examine the accessibility of children's book recommendations from librarians across the United States.
2. To create an updated list of books about grieving (post the COVID-19 Pandemic).
3. To identify trends amongst the recommendations.

Methods

Outreach Steps:
1. Collected data from 2020 U.S. Census about 5 most populated cities in each state. [4]
2. Compiled a list of libraries based on 5 libraries from each state's most populated cities and D.C. totaling 251.
3. Contacted libraries via email asking for children's book recommendations that deal with grief, loss, and bereavement.
4. Followed-up after a month with libraries that had not replied.
5. Created a database with all recommend books (664 unique values), the author, year published, marketed age range, type of book (i.e. picturebook/storybook), classic status, and language.

Fig. 1: Map of the locations that responded to the email inquiries

Results

251 libraries contacted

58.16% libraries provided recommendations

- 5 libraries
- 100 libraries
- 89 libraries
- 10 libraries
- 47 libraries

Fig. 2: Library contact breakdown

Types of Books Recommended
(Picturebook, Storybook, Other type)
- 480
- 142
- 42

Fig. 3: Types of books most commonly recommend

Age range of books recommended
- Age 0-3: 30
- Age 3-7: 430
- Age 7-13: 427
- Other: 91

Fig. 4: The age ranges that books were recommended

This yielded a list of 2,476 books with 664 unique recommendations. 25 of these books were recommend by over 20 separate libraries.

Books from 1952-2022, a span of 70 years, were recommended. Books in two languages (English and Spanish) were amongst these.

Discussion

- Libraries suggested content that was diverse in year published, age range, and format (Fig. 3 and 4). The content given spanned across many different categories, with 48 books being published in 2022, a time reflective of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- However, 39.84% of libraries never replied (Fig. 2) which poses a distinct challenge for parents to receive the information they need, and could result in a lack of targeted material for grieving youth. In this lack of communication, public libraries are not serving their populations. These materials are used to help a vulnerable population (i.e., children) to cope—further by providing co-socialization opportunities between parents and children who often read these books together.

Future Research
1. Should examine these books for concepts on afterlife beliefs, gender stereotypes, concepts of death, and coping strategies modeled.
2. Should measure qualitative data of how children react to the most commonly recommended books.

References

1. Arruda-Colli, M. N. F., Weaver, M. S., & Wiener, L. (2017). Communication about Dying, Death, and Bereavement: A Review of Children's Literature. *Journal of palliative medicine*, 20(5), 548–559. https://doi.org/10.1089/jpm.2016.0494

2. Gutiérrez, I. T., Miller, P. J., Rosengren, K. S., & Schein, S. S. (2014). Iii. Affective Dimensions of Death: Children's Books, Questions, and Understandings. *Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development*, 79(1), 43–61. https://doi-org.libproxy.library.unt.edu/10.1111/mono.12078

3. Poling, D. A., & Hupp, J. M. (2008). Death Sentences: A Content Analysis of Children's Death Literature. *The Journal of Genetic Psychology*, 169(2), 165-76. https://libproxy.library.unt.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/death-sentences-content-analysis-childrens/docview/228468633/se-2

4. U.S. Census Bureau (2020). City and Town Population Totals: 2020-2021. The Census Bureau. https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-total-cities-and-towns.html

Contact and Acknowledgments

UNT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

Title
State the name of the project, the authors, co-authors and PI.

Introduction
This section is the 'what'. It gives a brief explanation of the purpose of the research and what it is. Think of it of a really short abstract.

Data
Data is proof of the research, make it easy to read by using charts and graphs.

Methods
This where you outline, or the 'how' of the research. Briefly explain the steps of data collection.

References
As always, state your references!

Discussion
This is the 'why', make sure to tell and show your audience why all of this matters and the meaning of your result.

CHECK YOUR AUDIENCE

Not everyone will know your topic

- You might be presenting your research to people who have never heard about your topic, make sure to use words and examples they know.
- Take a more educative approach, learn how to teach your topic to those who are learning it for the first time.

For those who do know your topic

- More likely than not, you might be presenting to those who are already very familiar with your field and topic, in which case, they do not need as many details.
- Be sure to be concise, and get to the point of your project. Explain why it is important to the field, don't only explain why it is important to you.
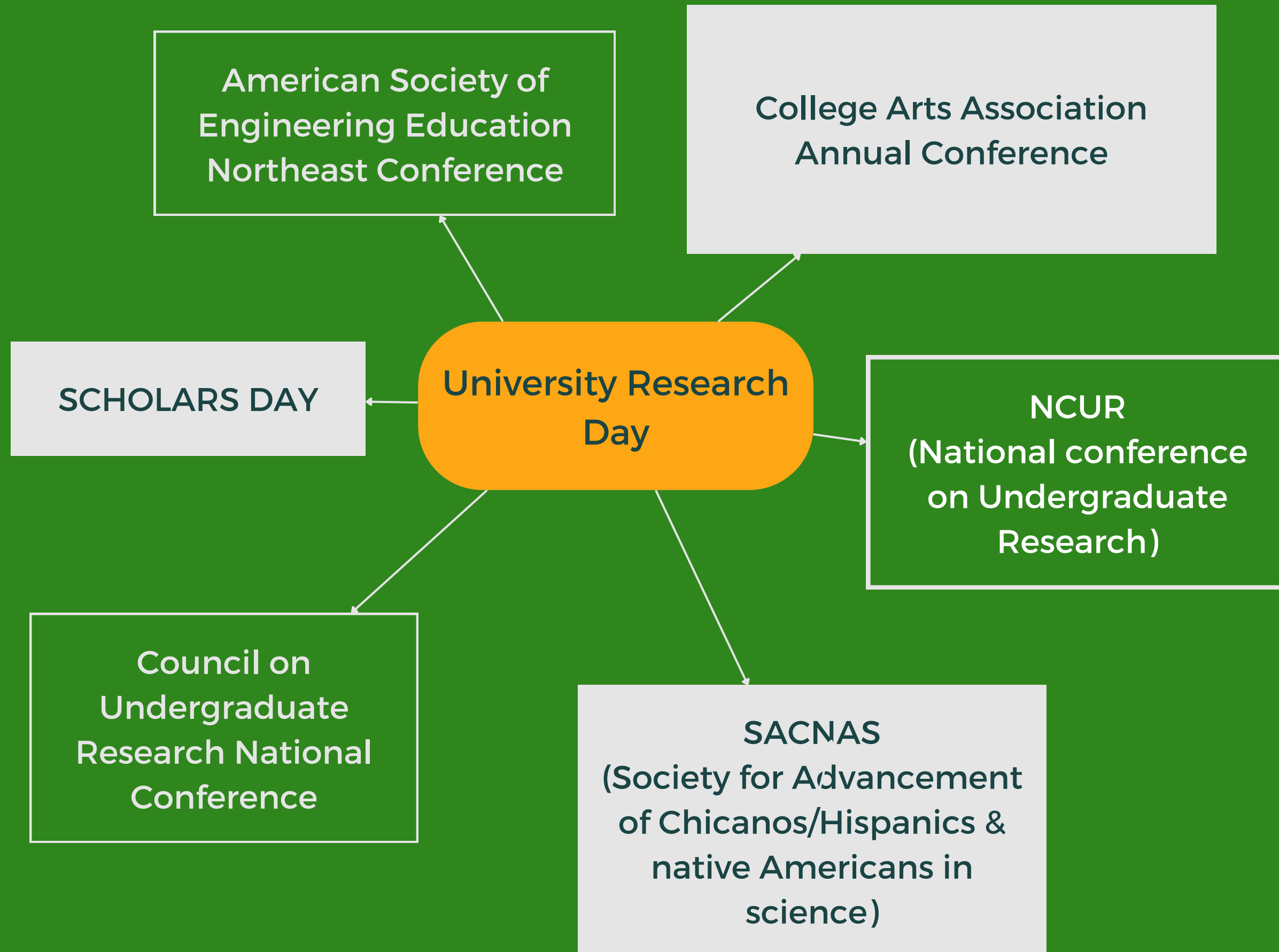
HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

We will be using the format for the University Research Day. Many conferences will follow a similar format, however make sure to visit the site of your conference for details on your submission.

For URD, you must include the following for the proposal:

- Must be no more than 750 words, not including references
  - References and additional resources can be included on a separate page
  - Should include a list of authors and co-authors, along with the department affiliation (not considered apart of the 750 word limit)
- Double space
- Arial or Times New Roman Font
- 12 point type size
- The following abstract structure is recommended (you may modify as needed).
  - **Identification of Problem and Significance**
  - **Approach/Methods**
  - **Results**
  - **Conclusions**

After your submission, you will be notified if you have been selected to be a poster presenter. Most conferences will follow the same process to review your abstract in order to make their selections for the presenters.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH DAY

What is it?

University Research Day is a chance to submit your research proposal in order to get a chance to present your research to students and faculty alike. There is a poster session, where you will get the chance to not only share your research but also network with various departments and colleges at UNT. Additionally, there are interactive panel sessions that showcase faculty and student work. This is an academic celebration open to everyone.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH DAY POSTER COMPETITION

Deadline?

The Research Development Team will host its second annual University Research Day in the Fall of 2024. This year, we will accept abstracts starting **April 1, 2024** for our annual poster competition. Be a part of our early bird call to save your spot in our poster celebration. We look forward to recognizing high-impact, innovative, and educational research by students and faculty on campus. Our team will provide the link with submission details on April 1! Mark your calendars!
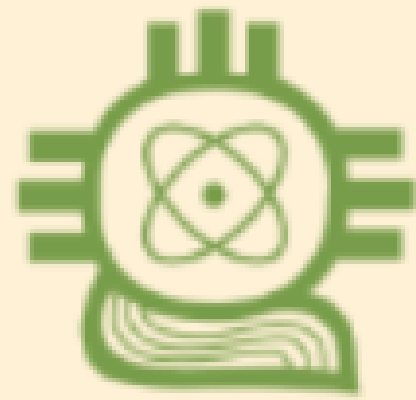
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About

"At SACNAS, we understand that diverse voices and perspectives bring creative solutions to compelling issues in STEM. That's why we've built a national network that is innovative, powerful, and inclusive. Whether your path is education, research, or professional, SACNAS connects thousands of members annually to the people, programs, and resources they need to grow." - SACNAS