

ZOMBIE PATHOLOGY LAB: USING HEALTH INFORMATION RESOURCES DURING A ZOMBIE OUTBREAK

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BACKGROUND

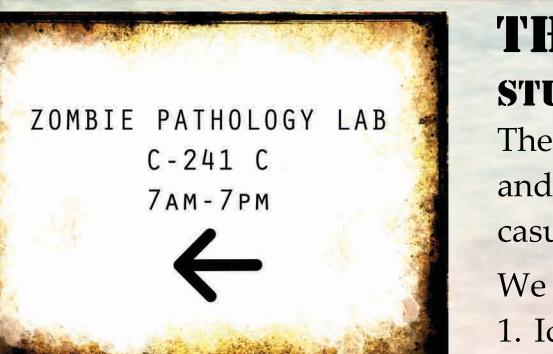
The game "Humans vs Zombies" (HvZ) is an international phenomenon. It started in 2005 at Goucher College in Maryland with 70 people. Its popularity increased, with more participants and sites. Now the game is played at 650 colleges, as well as high schools, military bases, summer camps and public libraries, and on every continent except Antarctica.¹

The rules stipulate that the role of zombies is to transform humans into zombies, while humans attempt to avoid contact, stunning zombies with socks or Nerf guns. Zombies try to turn all humans into zombies, while humans try to stay alive for a specified period of time. In order to get people out of their rooms the game incorporated missions- activities with specific goals that teams have to accomplish. These missions can include point defense, item retrieval, puzzle completion, escort service, and assassination.

The game started at the University of Florida in 2010, and there have been 8 games played on the campus since then. The Marston Science Library (MSL) has been involved in HvZ missions at UF since 2010, integrating a library mission into the overall story arc of the game and incorporating the use of information in game topics such as emergency preparedness.² Given a new focus on bringing people into the library and engaging them via exhibits and events, the Health Science Center Library (HSCL) decided in 2012 to join with MSL in creating and implementing a library component to the spring semester's game.

OBJECTIVES

- To engage students across campus in using library resources via participation in a student-led Humans vs. Zombies alternate reality game
- To introduce students to the HSCL's unique services and resources within the context of an existing innovative and fun event.
- Specific resources and services included:
 - VH Dissector, a software application for studying human anatomy
 - LibGuides, customized information portals developed for departments, courses, or events
 - Our eBook collection and other online resources
 - Librarian support for research and clinical practice
 - Our Faculty Development Center, a room with a 72" touch screen monitor that can be used for instruction and small group work



OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
Florida District Eight

1. Name of Decedent (Last, First, Middle, Titles)
Haley, Jefferson Andrew
2. Body Identified by:
Lorinda Haley, Relationship: Ex-Wife

3. Age: 62
4. Race: White
5. Sex: Male
6. Length: 5'9"
7. Weight: 145 lbs
8. Eyes: Blue
9. Hair: White
10. Beard: None

11. Blood Type: A positive
12. Major Wounds Distinguishing Features (Scars, Tattoos, Other Features)
Human bite marks on side of neck (2 mm below ear lobes). Human bite mark on right cheekbone (1.4 mm below hairline), both hands (knuckles). Torn fingernails right index, middle, ring fingers. Lacrimation scalp with anterior hair torn out.

13. Liver Mortis (Location; Color)
Black complete, back of RUE, LLE, side RUE, LTB, hands, scalp, purple, mouth, throat

14. No significant findings.

15. PATHOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION AND DIAGNOSIS
Skin: Two year old male, deceased approximately 8 hr, nearly full body rigor mortis, notable liver mortis on back, indicating dead at scene. Multiple skin lacerations on head & scalp, face, neck, and both upper extremities. Monteggia fracture of right humerus. Multiple skin lacerations on both forearms. Multiple skin lacerations on both hands (knuckles). Human bite marks on side of neck (2 mm below ear lobes). Human bite mark on right cheekbone (1.4 mm below hairline), both hands (knuckles). Torn fingernails right index, middle, ring fingers. Lacrimation scalp with anterior hair torn out.

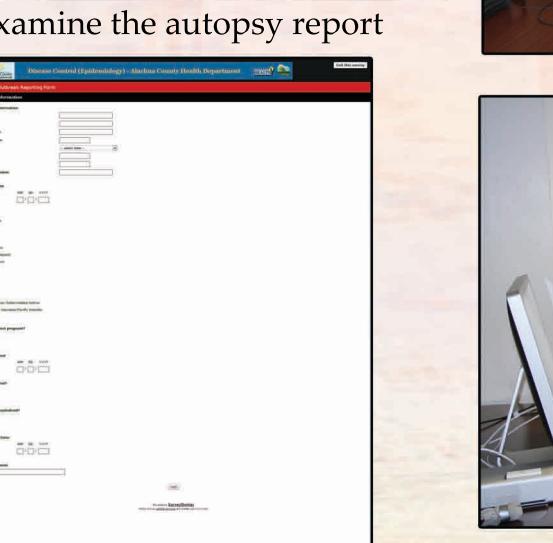
Left side of neck severely lacerated. No carotid pulse but edges of wounds show indication that skin and tissue were ripped out with teeth. Torn skin edges through venae jugularis and carotid veins.

Mild CAD found on heart examination, lungs clear, abdominal organs clear.

Brain examination shows infarction and petechiae cerebellum, posterior medulla and hippocampus with notable presence of fibrin bodies in Ammon's horn. These will be saved for additional pathological analysis.

16. PROBABLE CAUSE OF DEATH
Examining:

17. Name of Pathologist: John H. Watson, MD
18. Date and Time of Autopsy: April 20, 2012
19. Location of Autopsy: Shands Hospital, Gainesville
20. FILE NUMBER: GNO201241, 5146790



Report a disease outbreak to the local authorities

THE MISSION

STUDENTS ARRIVE AT THE ZOMBIE PATHOLOGY LAB

The Shands morgue appears to have been attacked today by a group of zombies, killing several staff and destroying much of the facility. Immediately prior to the attack, a series of seemingly related casualties came in – the attached report represents the only remaining paperwork on these cases.

We would like your help in:

- Identifying the disease involved in these cases through examination of the report and additional research.
- Reporting this disease outbreak to the local public health authorities.

The following site may provide useful information in performing these tasks:

<http://guides.ulib.ufl.edu/HSCLZombies>

Thank you for your assistance in this emergency situation.



Examine the autopsy report



Report a disease outbreak to the local authorities



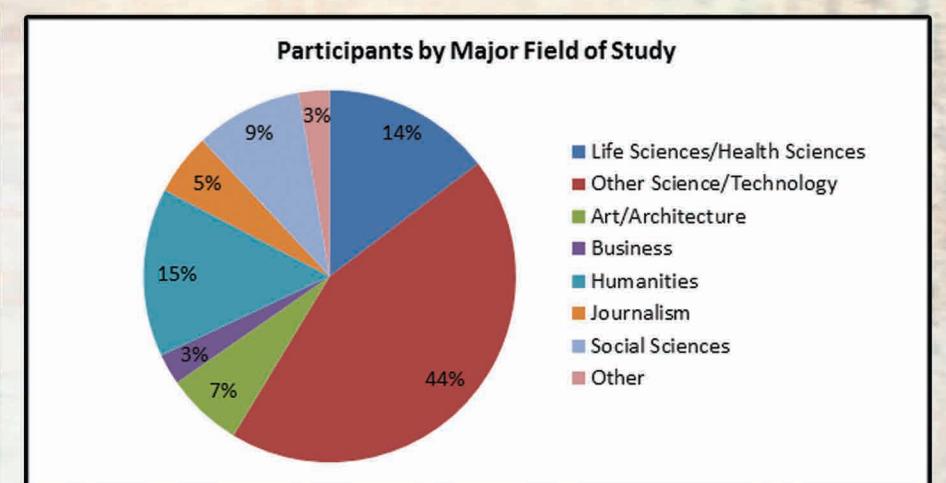
Use specialized software and library-generated resource guide to identify the disease



Mission complete! Enjoy a brain-like cupcake

RESULTS

Over 75 students participated in the 2-hour HvZ library mission with over half identifying as being from the science, technology, engineering, and medical disciplines. Anecdotal comments suggest that students enjoyed using the unique resources available at HSCL (such as VH Dissector anatomy software) and appreciated our involvement in this event.



CONCLUSIONS

Participating in a fun, student-led event like Humans vs. Zombies can provide libraries with a valuable means of outreach to students, engaging them in the utilization of library resources in a memorable and enjoyable fashion. We received positive responses to HSCL participation from colleagues in other campus libraries and from the participating students. The students were intrigued by the resources, particularly the VH Dissector, and were pleased by their ability to use our materials to solve the puzzle presented to them. The success of this event encourages us to continue participation in the annual HvZ game and to seek other such opportunities in the future.

REFERENCES

- Humans vs. Zombies. Available: <http://humansvszombies.org/>. Accessed September 28, 2012.
- Johnson, M., Buhler, AG, Hillman, C. 2010. "The Library is Undead: Information Seeking During the Zombie Apocalypse." Journal of Library Innovation, 1(2).