



LINKAGE – Research Consultant

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Riley: LINKAGE Project research consultants Interview.
Introduction.

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Noopur: My name is Noopur I am a clinical research assistant right now, working, with Thompson Rivers University, and I'm a registered nurse by background. So I worked in several clinical specialties, including neurosciences, as well as the New Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. And I currently work as a clinical research and innovation advisor with Alberta Health Services.

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Noopur: I actually became involved in this project back when I was an undergraduate student at the University of Calgary with the Faculty of Nursing.

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Noopur: I took on a role as a research assistant, and I supported Dr. Dewell's, research project back then, which was LINKAGE, which we were developing. And over the last couple of years, I've continued supporting her as I transitioned into my role as a nurse as well. And, once she transitioned to Thompson Rivers University, I sort of followed her. And that's why I'm helping her with this position. Again.

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Riley: Have you encountered any challenges or limitations while working on this project? If so, what were they?

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Noopur: Looking back at LINKAGE, LINKAGE is about connecting nurses, right? And a I guess one of the biggest challenge was recruitment for us. So making sure that we were getting

participants from across Canada to make sure that our project was developed correctly and ensure that we had the content that was appropriate for nurses of all levels, was probably the biggest challenge that we had.

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Noopur: I think nurses come from various different specialties and all nurses are quite different from one another. So it's really important to make sure that we're incorporating everyone's diverse opinions and making sure that we have the content that we need, to support everyone, whether it's a student or even like an expert nurse when it comes to genomics learning,

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Riley: How did the TRU Open Press team help your work? What kind of help did you get from the team?

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Noopur: Open Press has been wonderful to work with. I think they have done probably more work than I have. They definitely supported the module development, so they supported us by building the modules for us, making sure that we had the appropriate design and learning materials in place to ensure that, you know, our students and our learners were able to grasp the information from the online modules. They were very good with communication as well. Everyone often provided prompt responses when it came to asking questions or making sure that we had the right content in place. And they also supported us in developing new learning tools. So oftentimes, you know, I'm a nurse by background, so I don't have a lot of knowledge of educational design and learning development. But this is exactly where, Open Press sort of supported us. And they provided a lot of expertise in developing educational materials.

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Riley: Have you had a chance to share your experiences with your peers? What were their thoughts on this project?

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Noopur: I have shared this experience with my colleagues and LINKAGE is now live, and it's available to all users. So I've constantly been sharing this with my friends in nursing, as well as our faculty at the University of Calgary, and everyone has loved this resource. I think, you know, what we're trying to do is we're trying to grow a community of nurses who want to learn and want to build upon their genomic knowledge. And genomics is relevant in all nursing specialties. So to have a resource like this available to everyone is something that they really appreciate and they're starting to dwell upon. So we're just continuing to grow at this point right now,

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Riley: How do you think you can apply the experience you gained from this project in the future?

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Noopur: I think the biggest learning from this project has been collaboration, right? So we collaborated with several teams from the TRU, specifically the Open Press team, and just making sure that we had the right communication strategies in place to support this project was really important. You know, we all bring different sort of experiences and different expertise when it comes to projects like this. So making sure that our vision was communicated appropriately with the Open Press team was really important. And through our collaboration and through the project management strategies that we use, we were able to develop this amazing project. So the communication strategies that we use here is definitely something that I will take with me in the future.

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Riley: Did you know about TRU Open Press and open educational resources before you were involved in this project? If so, how did you learn about them?

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Noopur: I actually did not. So we learned about this after we started building LINKAGE. Prior to this, we were using an external software and I was the one actually developing these modules myself. So yeah, we learned I learned about this through Dr. Dewell, and it's been an amazing resource. Like I said, I don't think we would have been able to do or have the same modules that we have right now without the Open Press team.

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Riley: What was your experience like using TRU Open Press and receiving support from the team?

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Noopur: It's been absolutely amazing, the collaboration, the communication and the expertise that this team brings to building educational materials and content is amazing. And I think everyone should be utilizing this, you know, like I said, as a nurse, I don't have the expertise or knowledge of building educational materials myself, but through this team's expertise, we were able to build this amazing module, and we were able to disseminate it to our, to our audience. So I think they definitely bring a lot of value when it comes to building projects like this for education purposes.

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Riley: How do you think open educational resources will improve students' education? How would the quality of the education differ without OER?

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Noopur: I think, you know, in the last couple of years, we're really been transitioning from paper method education to digital platforms, and this is exactly where Open Press comes in from TRU. So just having the opportunity to build educational materials on online platforms, like what Open Press did for us is truly, really helpful. And we need to start focusing on digital learning tools and sort of the expertise that Open Press provides for those the design elements, the learning materials and how to integrate them together, is truly important to help students sort of recognize

and learn the flow. So yeah, I think just going from paper methods to more like a digital platform is extremely helpful.

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Riley: What types of open educational resources would you like to see in the future?

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Noopur: Like I mentioned, I think we're really moving from a place of paper based education materials to more of a digital platform. So having these open educational resources available to everyone around the world is really helpful. And one of the things that can be implemented is more digital tools for nursing education. So similar to what we have for LINKAGE, we build these online educational modules for genomics. I would love to see more educational tools for nurses across Canada that can be implemented in various different specialties.

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Riley: Thank you for the interview, Noopur.

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Noopur: Awesome. Thanks guys.