

Academic Librarians Expanding Rural Information Access in the U.S. Midwest

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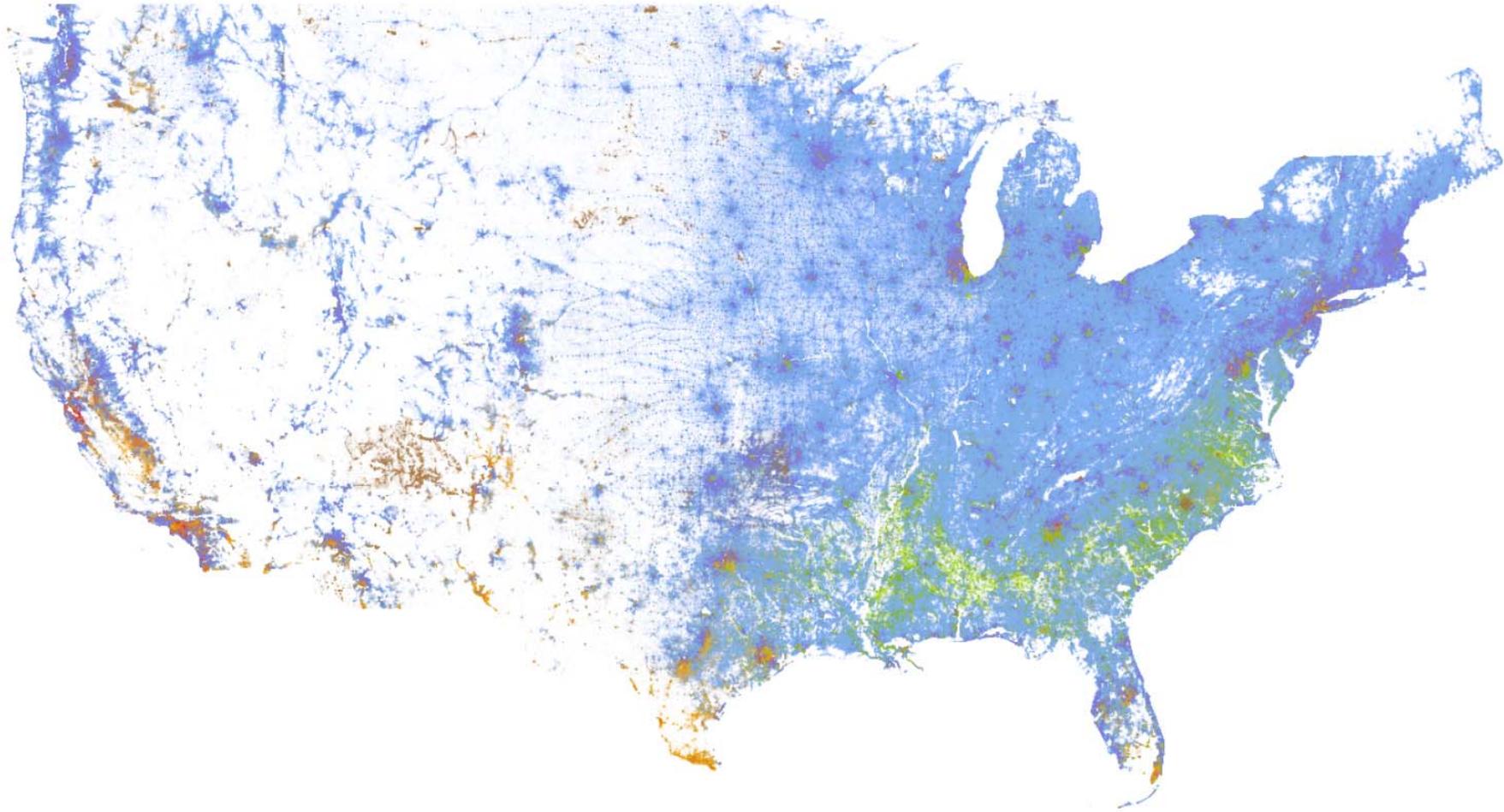
Deborah H. Ward, Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library, University of Missouri

Chris Pryor, National Network of Libraries of Medicine





Poverty
and
isolation
contribute
to poor
health.



Cable, D. A. (n.d.) The racial dot map: One dot per person for the entire U.S.
<http://demographics.virginia.edu/DotMap/>



Partnerships
can help
overcome
health
information
barriers.



Pixabay. System Web News. <https://pixabay.com/illustrations/system-web-news-personal-figures-1527686/>

Two LIS faculty & two academic librarians worked to create a local solution.

Bossaller, Adkins, Ward, and Pryor receive Librarians as Catalysts for Health Communities grant from Institute of Museum and Library Services





Strategies to overcome health disparities

- Educating students to meet the demand for health information in rural areas, by providing an MLIS curriculum supplemented by classes in public health and health informatics.
- Creating a regional network of contacts who come together to discuss information needs specific to their own communities.



Educating students

- Academic librarians helped select the curriculum
 - Principles of Public Health
 - Introduction to Health Informatics
 - Consumer Health Informatics
 - Health Care in the United States
- Academic librarians provided feedback on program outcomes and goals
- Academic librarian provides specialized LIS course instruction
 - Consumer Health Information



Creating a regional network



NLM in Focus (2014). Regional Medical Libraries Making a Difference: Focus on Midcontinental Region.
https://infocus.nlm.nih.gov/2014/05/21/regional_medical_libraries_mak_3/



Next Steps

- Increased coverage of health sciences librarianship content in classes.
- Creation of a cohort of student “Catalysts for Community Health.”
- Involvement of academic librarians throughout the process