

Current literature

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An annotated bibliography of books and articles relevant to the study and use of the internet in the healthcare environment.

Innes G. *Faculty-librarian collaboration: an online information literacy tutorial for students.* *Nurse Educator* 2008; **33**(4): 145–146

This article illustrates how librarians can have a positive input to learning outcomes, focusing on nursing students and a tailored online information literacy tutorial designed by a nursing librarian. Ways in which librarians can influence learning outcomes and evidence-based practice include: developing a research topic; developing an effective search strategy; utilising appropriate resources; and running an effective search. It is helpful to foster a close relationship between faculty and librarian because this enables the librarian to gain a greater understanding of the information needs of the students and to offer them tailored assistance. The online literacy tutorial outlined here deals with the pathway behind determining and dealing with information needs, starting with analysing what the needs are, using

the PICOT framework (population, intervention, comparison, outcome, time) to decide the search query, developing a search strategy, identifying appropriate resources, searching the resources effectively, and using the results to complement evidence-based practice. The students had to write up how they used the tutorial and how it maximised their output. Feedback showed that this increased the nurses' understanding of research as evidence and furthered their information skills that they can use throughout their careers.

Taylor R. *Use of the internet to optimise collaborative healthcare research.* *Nurs Standard* 2008; **22**(38): 35–38

The Virtual Institute of Research in Healthcare Practice (VIRIHP) is a collaboration enabling virtual healthcare research between multiprofessionals and patients. This paper examines the pros and cons of collaborative virtual working, using the VIRIHP as an example. VIRIHP combines NHS trusts, higher

education institutions and patient groups throughout the UK using virtual communication to collaborate on healthcare research. Collaborative working allows for various disciplines and skills, and virtual working allows greater access to this range, as well as enabling multi-disciplinary understanding. Other benefits include: (i) having a wide pool of expertise rather than being limited by who is nearby; (ii) lower costs; and (iii) the ease of meeting 'online' rather than physically. It also allows for easier sharing of resources and websites can offer extras such as learning packages. Some people argue that meeting face-to-face is more effective than meeting online and that it can be more difficult to confirm relationships without a proper face-to-face meeting. General communication misunderstandings are also a mark of online communication and something that virtual collaborations must be aware of. However, in general, the VIRIHP has found that virtual collaborative research has proved to be an effective way to work. (*Note: the VIRIHP project is now closed.*)

A sickle crisis? A report of the National Confidential Enquiry

www.ncepod.org.uk/2008sc.htm

This is a report of the findings of an enquiry conducted into the causes of deaths of patients with haemoglobinopathies, otherwise known as sickle cell disease and beta thalassaemia. The study also aimed to collect information on the care received by patients before death and to look at out-patient care, management of sickle pain, mortality associated with surgery, clinical pathology and the quality of autopsy reports so that the management and quality of life of future patients could be improved. Conducted by the independent monitoring body the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD), previously known as the National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths, the report is published in 2008 and the findings and recommendations are available in an 86-page report along with an executive summary, as well as access to a range of slides how presentations on the report's findings.