Network of the National Library of Medicine Course Development: Building Reference Skills for Nursing and Allied Health Research

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Updating “Nursing on the Net”

1. Teach participants how to evaluate quality health websites for nurses;
2. Enable participants to describe and evaluate quality nursing resources available on the Internet;
3. Demonstrate searches for nursing literature in PubMed.

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Refining Objectives

• Connect National Library of Medicine resources to the needs of nursing and allied health professionals.

• List the ways librarians can support the information needs of their nursing and allied health audiences.
Our Process

- Team agreed to investigate needs and best practices for librarians teaching nursing and allied health professionals.
- Shared relevant information resources, sharpened the learning objectives, and offered ideas for course activities.
Building Reference Skills

• Three-week asynchronous course that is designed for library staff who support, or want to support, nursing and allied health professionals.
Connect NLM Resources to User Needs

- Research literature > PubMed
- Consumer/patient health questions > MedlinePlus
- Drug info > DailyMed, MedlinePlus Drugs, LactMed
- Quality improvement or health indicators > Healthy People 2020 Structured Evidence Queries

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Reflective Practice

Asked to reflect upon how they can improve library services to nursing and allied health professionals in their work environment.

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How did it go?

• 3 sessions, January-March 2021
• 112 registered
• 99 made it to the online class
• 39 completed
  • 16 did nothing
• 34% completion rate

Overwhelmingly positive reviews!

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Glowing Praise

• 97% learned a new skill.
• 97% improved their ability to apply a resource they already use.
• 88% learned about least 1 health information resource or tool.
• 87% planned to tell others.

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How will participants use what they learned?

• Incorporating NLM resources into LibGuides
• Using search examples from this class in their own instruction
• Sharing NLM resources with participants, faculty and clinicians.
What did participants like?

• Knowledge Checks
• Professional Development Plan
• Resources Comparison Chart
• Self Paced Learning
What did participants dislike?

• Confusing course navigation
• Content too basic
• Not enough time
What’s next?

• Closer look at course navigation
• Revising to on-demand class
• Improved class, Summer 2021!

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Conclusion – NNLM rocks!

• “This course helped my search skills immensely; prior to now, my search habits were scattered, not as systematic. I was introduced to the allied health professions. “

• “Great job putting this together. It's hard to find the right balance of information and assessment, but I think that you've done a great job. “

• “This class was excellent.”

Thank you for learning with us!

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