

LIBRARIES AND LEARNING

Start here!

Challenge

To try to meet the demand for information skills training while remaining cost effective and making best use of staff time.

Solution

An e-learning package backed up with drop-in sessions.

Background

- History of large number of hours of teaching delivery to the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.
- Intake of more than 300 BSc Nursing and Midwifery students every year, in two cohorts
- Expansion of post-registration courses
- In total, around 1000 nursing and midwifery students studying at any one time
- Students expected to use the Library to find books and journal articles for their assignments right from the very start of their courses
- Students have often been out of education for some time and are unfamiliar with online resources.

Development of the material

- Originally developed for pharmacy who have a similar intake of students
- Adapted from the pharmacy material with the substitution of appropriate examples from nursing and midwifery to produce generic material suitable for these programmes
- Material tailored further for individual programmes

The Future

- Expansion of package beyond first year material to cover higher course levels
- Plan to migrate materials to a different platform to overcome accessibility issues
- Continuous review of materials in order that they continue to be relevant to the programmes they support and maintain quality.

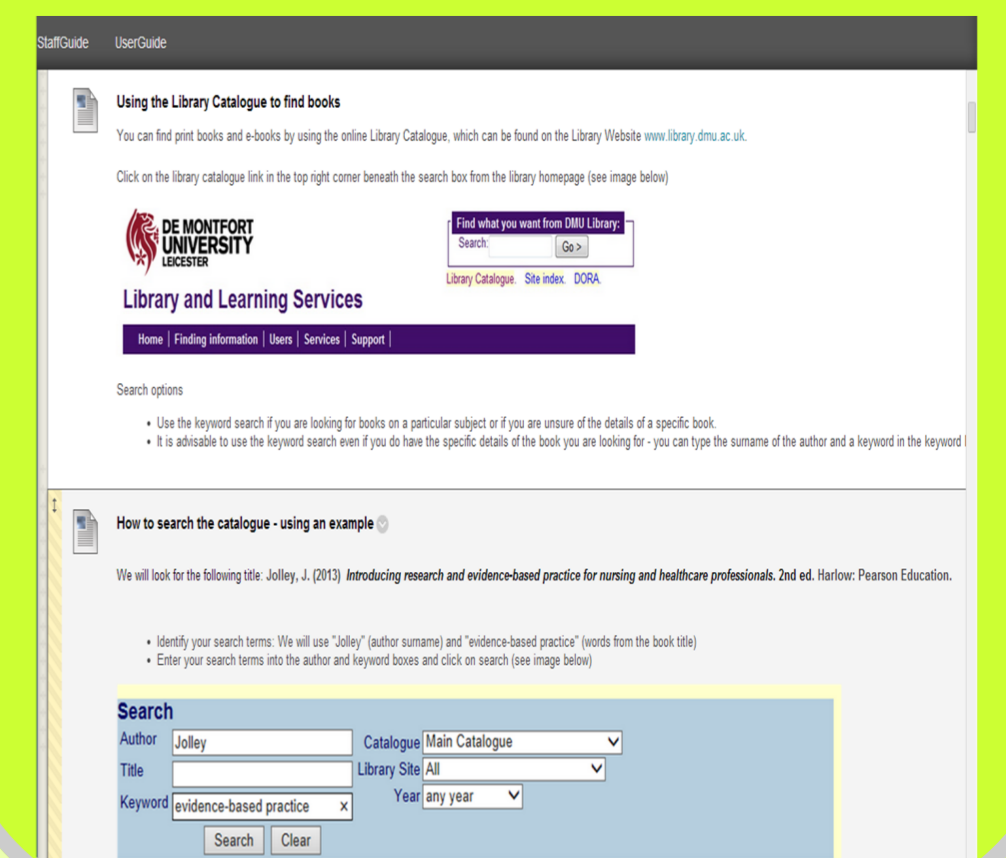
Information skills for nursing students: development of an e-learning package

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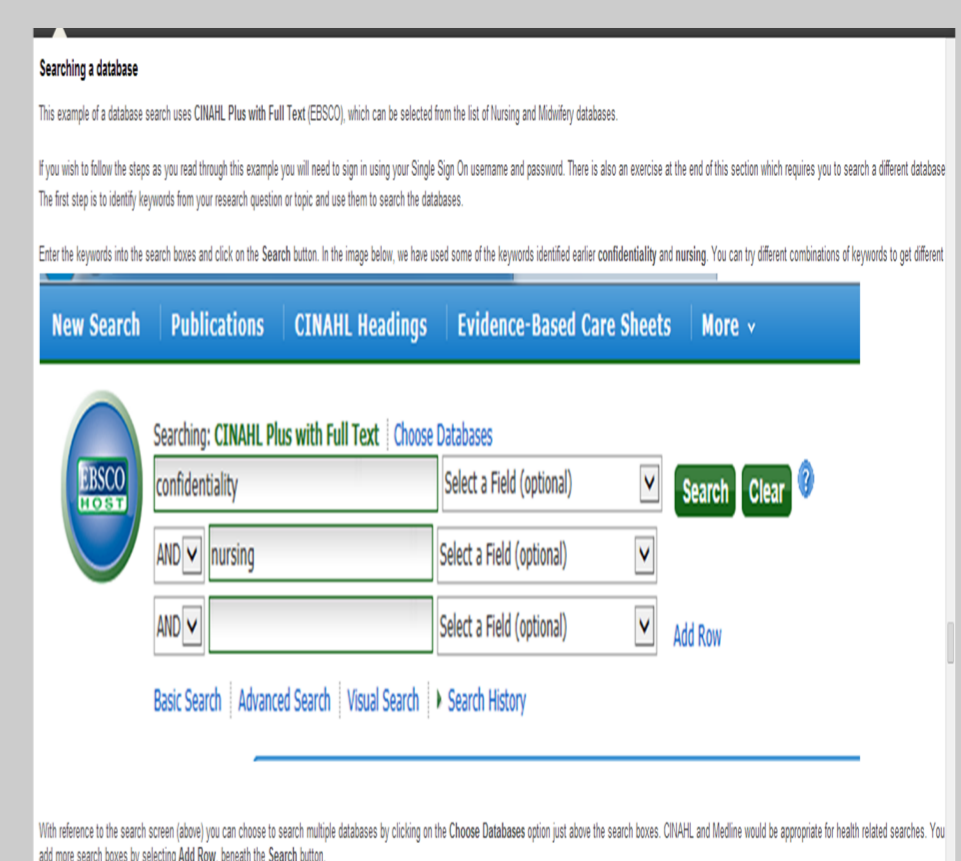


An exploration of the practicalities and pitfalls of designing an information skills e-learning package for new Nursing and Midwifery students

Example content
Finding books using the Library catalogue



Example content
Searching a database



Benefits

- Students can work through material at their own pace
- Students already familiar with Blackboard
- Material available continuously to students throughout their course
- Results of pharmacy library module exams show improvement since the launch of the e-learning material
- Positive anecdotal feedback from students and academic staff

Pitfalls

- Difficulty of importing materials into Blackboard. Formatting is often lost
- Balancing the need to break the text up into manageable chunks against making the module easy for students to navigate
- Time taken to find suitable examples in order to demonstrate how to search the catalogue, databases etc
- NHS firewalls causing accessibility problems for some students using Blackboard
- Running out of time for proofreading and testing a walk-through of the package