Tennessee State University
Brown-Daniel Library

Mrs. Nancy Henthorne
Reference Librarian

INFORMATION LITERACY FOR NURSING STUDENTS

In order to ensure that patients receive the best care possible, and to keep abreast of the ever-increasing changes in their chosen profession, graduates of Tennessee State University's nursing program need to be information literate. The goals of this course are to ensure that our nursing students are ready to meet the demands of a constantly changing profession by having the skills needed to determine the nature and extent of their information needs; to access and evaluate information and its respective sources critically and analytically; to process and incorporate selected information into his/her knowledge base, and personal and/or professional value systems; to use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, such as better patient care; to understand the economic, moral, ethical, legal, and social issues about using new and acquired information; to use information ethically and legally as he/she seeks to enhance patient care.

Nursing Students in General should be Able To:

- Determine nature and extent of information needed by

  - Consulting with instructors and librarians in order to identify a research topic
  - Formulating queries based on the information needed
  - Achieving manageable focus by defining or modifying information needs
  - Identify key concepts and words describing needed information
  - Use analytical and critical thinking skills to identify needed information.

- Identify, locate, and retrieve information by

  - Determining types of information needed
  - Locating access points where information may be found
  - Selecting strategies to access the best information in the shortest amount of time possible.

- Utilize or construct and implement effective search strategies by

  - Formulating effective search strategies

- Conducting searches using appropriate resources
- Evaluating search results and modifying searches as needed.

- Access needed information quickly and effectively.

First Year Nursing Students should be able to:

- Efficiently access and navigate Library's web site to find information.

- Identify concepts and key terms describing information needed by using controlled vocabulary and information retrieval resources specific to Nursing.

- Investigate scope, content and organization of retrieval sources; compile pertinent bibliographic information for later use in compiling citations.

- Draw his/her own conclusions based on information gathered, integrate new and previous information and/or knowledge; identify information supporting chosen thesis statement.

- Understand what plagiarism entails and the consequences involved.

- Choose an appropriate style; using it correctly and consistently.

Intermediate and Advanced Level Nursing Students should be able to:

- Develop thesis statements and form queries based on required information.

- Evaluate potential resources and materials in various formats; including; but not limited to; databases, data sets, Internet and web sites, video and audio recordings, and print.

- Implement search strategies by using search engines with various command languages, protocols, and search parameters; including ***CINAHL, PubMed/Medline, Science Direct, Sigma Theta Tau,*** and others.

- Broaden information seeking horizons beyond local resources by using document delivery services such as interlibrary loan, Athena, TALC.

- Recognize that when existing information and prior knowledge is combined with person's original thought, analysis and experimentation can produce new information and methods of caring for patients.

- Recognize that knowledge can be divided into disciplines, which can impact how information is accessed.

- Use variety of technologies to retrieve useful information, such as software, reader/printer scanners, audio-visual equipment, and others.

- Critically examine and compare content from various sources which may include, but not limited to; journals, conference papers, proceedings, and government publications in order to evaluate reliability, validity, accuracy, authority and bias, if any; of the information obtained.

- Use computers and other technologies, including databases, spreadsheets, and charts to study the exchange and interaction of ideas and hypotheses.

- Broaden research topics to build new hypotheses which may require further research in order to obtain new information.

- Test theories with appropriate discipline techniques, including formulas and simulations.

- Question sources of data retrieved as to their accuracy, timeliness, and authoritativeness.

- Properly use obtained information and data by citing resources pursuant to copyright laws.