

ICML – A First Time experience

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A major international conference, an imposing setting at the QEII Conference Centre, London and co-presenting a poster with my boss, Rebecca Davies - no wonder I felt a bit over-awed! But the friendliness of the participants, a jolly evening out with the LfN group, and a range of diverse and exciting sessions meant I came away filled with enthusiasm and ideas.

With so many themes explored, I can only give a personal view of some of the issues and papers that interested me most.

How are we to evaluate the information-needs of our nursing students? A paper by Jean Yeoh made a plea for us to recognize the different levels of need - especially amongst APNs and specialists in the fields of community, mental health and health education nursing. These are the nurses who will play a major role in encouraging the practice of evidence-based nursing, and they need information skills to match the demands of this role.

How best can we impart the information skills our users need increasingly in their everyday practice - not just to pass their course-work? A lot of exciting ideas, using web-based teaching, problem-solving scenarios, and self-assessment were presented by Sharon Chadwick from Humboldt State University.

Then again, several papers on methods of surveying users in order to ensure that our efforts to provide them with access to information databases and the information-seeking skills to make the most of

resources, gave food for thought. Quantative or qualitative? Focus groups?

Finally, the many examples - in Italy, Latin-America, and Australia - of resource-sharing were positively inspirational. After all, access to resources is vital. Yet here in the UK, as several speakers reminded us, the rational and co-operative use of resources is a long way from the forward-looking developments in other parts of the world. Libraries for nurses may no longer be confined to the "locked cupboard", but we have yet to develop a co-ordinated and integrated system of library services for nursing across the NHS and the HE sector.

A Virtual Branch Library on NELH for Nursing and PAMs?

Response and comments from:

Rebecca Davies,

Health Science Librarian and Chair of Libraries for Nursing

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As Chair of LfN I was invited to comment on the viability of a Virtual Branch Library on NELH, the following was sent to the NELH nursing and PAMs VBL group (with a deadline of 6 summer weeks to obtain feedback!).

In order to consult as widely as possible in the time frame given an email message was constructed asking 2 main questions:

1. Do we need a separate VBL for nursing, midwifery and allied health?
2. Ranking/suggestions of databases (suggestions included CINAHL, AMED, ASSIA, MEDLINE, EMBASE and OVID Nursing Collection)