

Nurses' Experiences with OVID BIOMED

Dr. Deirdre Wheat, Clinical Research IT Support Co-ordinator, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust

Ms. Sue Woodburn, Assistant Librarian, The Friends of the Children of Great Ormond Street Library

March 2000

Since June 1998, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust (GOS) have enjoyed free access to OVID by participating in Project Access. Project Access is a pilot project which has offered certain OVID services to six NHS organisations within the Central London Education & Training Consortium. All NHS staff in the participating organisations are eligible to use the OVID resource wherever and whenever they have access to the Internet. The trial is due to end in May 2000. Resources available in the trial include Medline, CINAHL, the full-text version of 84 biomedical journals including the Nursing Collection Best Evidence, and the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.

Recently, the Friends of the Children of Great Ormond Street Library and Clinical Research IT Support in GOS have carried out a survey of individual trial participants in order to investigate both participants' information needs, and participants' satisfaction with the service in meeting those needs.

Survey results

Among other respondent groups, 37 nurses from various backgrounds returned surveys which reflected active OVID use. The following results relate specifically to that group of nurses.

Is OVID easy to use?

Respondents were asked whether OVID is easy to use. 81% of respondents thought OVID is easy to use, 11% didn't answer the question, and 8% thought OVID was not easy to use. To qualify responses to this question, respondents were asked for comments. See Table 1.

Table 1: Is OVID easy to use?	
fairly	
Keeps freezing after combining >1 or 2 search terms;	
took a while to get used to	
Haven't used that much but feel it is an important resource	

Could OVID alone fulfil your bibliographic resource needs?

Respondents were asked whether the OVID service *alone* could meet their health related bibliographic resource needs. 43% thought OVID alone could meet their needs, 43% thought OVID alone could not meet their resource needs, and 14% did not answer the question. To qualify responses to this question, respondents were asked for comments. See Table 2.

Table 2: Could OVID alone fulfil your bibliographic resource needs?	
so far	
Abstracts alone not sufficient; full article required therefore must attend library	
Does not cover all nursing literature	
doing a degree, use other databases, OVID very useful...	

What resources are used to supplement OVID?

Respondents were asked what health related information resources they used in addition to the OVID service; it was possible to select more than one answer. 18 nurses said they use NLM PubMed, 10 used "other" sources, and 4 used Library CD resources. Library CD resources include BNI, Cochrane Library, PsychLit, Binleys, and ChildData. Comments detailing the "other" used category can be found in Table 3.

Table 3: Additional resources used by respondents
UKCC, RCN, Government reports all available via internet
British Nursing Index
PsychLit
Aids websites, RCN

Would NLM PubMed alone meet your bibliographic resource needs?

As NLM PubMed is available to internet users at GOS, and is widely used, it is useful to compare its use with that of OVID. Respondents were asked whether the NLM PubMed alone would meet their resource needs. 46% felt NLM PubMed alone would not meet resource needs, 19% felt it would, and 35% did not respond to the question. To further elucidate responses to this question, respondents were asked for comments, a selection of which can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4: Would NLM PubMed/Medline alone meet your resource needs?
Very medically orientated, need access to nursing information
Need full text articles
...need access to CINAHL
too limited with regards to nursing

Which OVID features are particularly useful to you?

Respondents were then asked to indicate OVID features that are particularly useful to them. 28 respondents replied favourably to the full-text facility, 27 to the range of abstracts, 17 to the saving facility, 15 to Medline access, and 8 to the reference e-mail facility.

How often are different bibliographic resources utilised?

Respondents were asked how often they used OVID service only, OVID Medline only, and NLM PubMed. Among nurses that responded to the question, the resources most commonly used were OVID service alone and OVID Medline; both were most commonly accessed several times per month. See Figure 1 for further details.

Error! Not a valid link.

Problems experienced with the OVID service

Respondents were asked to comment on problems they have experienced with the OVID service. Table 5 lists some of the responses given.

Table 5: Problems experienced with OVID
none!
benefited from availability greatly...I spend less time in Library, more time...available in unit
...OVID very good and very useful...
...sometimes very slow...

Discussion

While 81% of those surveyed found the OVID BIOMED service easy to use, there are training and administration implications of subscription to the service. In Great Ormond Street, a large percentage of OVID BIOMED users (not necessarily survey respondents) have received either group or one-to-one training from Library staff. Similarly, registering users and handling accounts has required Library staff time and skill.

Overall, the response to the trial OVID BIOMED services has been very positive from Nursing staff at Great Ormond Street. Most of the nursing staff find the OVID service easy to use; the full-text facility is particularly popular. However, the trial OVID BIOMED service does not meet all the information needs of Nursing staff. Consequently, other resources such as the BNI and PsychLit as well as websites such as the RCN, UKCC, and the Department of Health are also frequently used.