

REVIEW SECTION

ENB CD ROM

ENB CD-ROM. Annual subscription £131.60 (including VAT, P&P). Available from Careers and Resource Department, ENB, Victory House, 170 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0HA

The aim of this CD-ROM is "to disseminate board information to nurses, midwives and health visitors" and to be accessible to all levels of users from the beginner to the information professional.

The screen layout and user interface is in a similar format to a WWW page which is user friendly especially for the beginner. The pages look uncluttered and attractive and can be navigated through a simple "point and click" action. The retrieved records display is bold and clear with each field heading in full rather than the confusing codes used in many CD-ROMs.

However when a search is undertaken the limitations of this database become clear. A simple search will only use words from the index and will only search one type of document. This means that very few records are actually retrieved. The advanced search is better as it allows search terms to be entered and all document types to be searched. However the number of "hits" achieved is disappointing unless a very general subject is entered. There is also no opportunity to use Boolean logic to combine terms.

Although this database is simple to navigate and looks attractive the user is limited both by the content and possible search strategies offered. It does seem to live up to its claim to be "powerful enough to satisfy the search requirements of the Information professional".

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