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An update on key physiotherapy information sources

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The following represent some of the most important, or most popular physiotherapy information resources that the LIS team at the CSP use on a regular basis to answer enquiries. It is hoped they will be of interest to *Libraries for Nursing Bulletin* readers.

Professional standards

Physiotherapy is one of thirteen health professions regulated by the Health Professions Council (HPC). All physiotherapists registered to work in the UK must adhere to the '*Standards of Proficiency - Physiotherapists*' and the '*Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics*'. Both documents are available from the HPC website at:

<http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutregistration/professions/physiotherapists/index.asp>

Physiotherapists, physiotherapy assistants, and physiotherapy students that choose to become members of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy must also take account of the CSP's '*Core Standards of Physiotherapy Practice*' 2005, and the '*Rules of Professional Conduct*' 2002, or the '*Physiotherapy Assistants' Code of Conduct*' 2002. These documents can be accessed via the CSP website.

Developing Internet research skills

The LIS team helped to provide relevant physiotherapy examples to incorporate into the *Internet for Allied Health* tutorial package, and this is promoted to our members as an excellent 'teach yourself' Internet tutorial:

<http://www.vts.rdn.ac.uk/tutorial/allied>

Bibliographic databases

As physiotherapists work in so many different clinical areas (e.g. animal therapy, hydrotherapy, learning disabilities, neurology etc.) there needs to be a broad provision of databases to satisfy the spectrum of potential enquiries. At the CSP we use *AMED*, *Cinahl*, *the Cochrane Library*, *Embase – Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *HMIC*, *Medline* and *Sports Discus* on a regular basis.

However, the following databases are also extremely useful when supporting physiotherapy (they are all freely accessible on the web):

Acubriefs (Acupuncture references and reviews)

<http://www.acubriefs.com>

Ageline

<http://www.aarp.org/research/ageline/>

PeDRO (The Physiotherapy Evidence Database)

<http://www.pedro.fhs.usyd.edu.au/index.html>

Sport & Leisure Index

<http://www.altis.ac.uk/sli/>

Online subject gateways

The CSP LIS team locates, evaluates and catalogues physiotherapy and rehabilitation resources for the *Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Gateway (NMAP)*, which we use as a starting point for searching the Internet. Types of websites included within the gateway are: clinical guidelines, reports, electronic journals, databases, organisational websites, electronic mailing lists etc:

<http://nmap.ac.uk>

Outcome measures

The CSP maintains a database of over two hundred outcome measures relevant to physiotherapy. Each record gives a brief description of the measure, and includes information on the original source of the measure; if there is a cost to purchase; time to

administer the measure; whether there have been any reliability, responsiveness or validity testing of the measure; and details of the patient population the measure is designed for. The *CSP Outcome Measures database* is freely available for all to search via the CSP website (please note the database does not include full text access to the measures listed).

Free full text physiotherapy journals

There are a number of physiotherapy journals that are free full text on the web (many of the titles listed below have recently increased the amount of full text content available):

Australian Journal of Physiotherapy – 1987-1995 available in full text format; the full text run starts again in 2000 and goes up to (at present) June 2004:

https://apa.advsol.com.au/ScriptContent/ajp_index.cfm?section=ajp

Journal of the Japanese Physical Therapy Association (English version) – 1998 onwards:

http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/jjpta/_vols/-char/en

Journal of Physical Therapy Science (English version) – 1995 onwards:

http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/jpts/_vols

Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development – 1998 onwards:

<http://www.vard.org/jour/jourindx.htm>

New Zealand Journal of Physiotherapy - 2003 onwards:

<http://nzsp.org.nz/index02/Publications/Journals.htm>

Physical Therapy - 1999 onwards:

http://www.ptjournal.org/info/pt_abs.cfm

General reference materials

A '*Dictionary of Physiotherapy*' (2005) has finally been published in the UK. For further details see:

<http://www.intl.elsevierhealth.com/catalogue/title.cfm?ISBN=0750688335>

Statistics

The HPC publishes statistics on how many physiotherapists are currently registered to work in the UK:

<http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutregistration/theregister/stats/index.asp>

The HPC also publishes statistics on the number of physiotherapists registered since 1967:

<http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutregistration/theregister/oldstats/>

The Department of Health also publish annual figures on patient contact with physiotherapy staff in England. This is available from:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/StatisticalHealthCare/StatisticalHealthCareArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4086490&chk=6NOZfh

Peer to peer support

The CSP runs a peer-to-peer support electronic network called *InteractiveCSP* on behalf of its membership. The website has twenty nine different clinical and occupational interest networks that members can join, ranging from Hand Therapy to Physiotherapy Managers. Each network has a discussion forum, the ability to run polls and a links section:

<http://www.interactivecsp.org.uk>

Other email discussion lists of interest to physiotherapists:

Physio JISCMail discussion list

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/physio.html>

Acupuncture JISCMail discussion list

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/acupuncture.html>

Consumer information relevant to physiotherapy

If you support consumers who want to check that their physiotherapist is registered to practice in the UK, then direct them to the *HPC register*, which can be searched by surname:

<http://register.hpc-uk.org/lisa/onlineregister/RegistrantSearchInitial.jsp>

If consumers want to know how to locate a physiotherapist with a particular speciality working in their locality, then there are two private practice physiotherapy resources that can be used to find this type of information. Firstly, there is the *Physio2U* resource available via the homepage of the CSP website, which allows people to search for a private practitioner using postcode, county, surname, clinical

speciality, or a combination of the above. Secondly, the Organisation of Chartered Physiotherapists in Private Practice (OCPPP) run a service, *Find a Physio*, from their website at:

<http://www.physiofirst.org.uk/public/default.asp>

URLs correct at 25/08/05

Supporting Operating Department Practice students

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What is Operating Department Practice?

An Operating Department Practitioner (ODP) works alongside other health professionals in the operating theatre, as well as playing a part in preoperative and postoperative care. They are involved in assessing the patient prior to surgery, in preparing the theatre and its equipment, and in the theatre itself, assisting surgeons (Association of Operating Department Practitioners, 2005).

I find it difficult to discern the boundary between the work of an ODP and the work of perioperative nurses. I have been reassured to see that academics observing the field find the same (Timmons & Tanner, 2004).