

MIDIRS Relaunch

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A new improved version of MIDIRS is now available, featuring updated leaflets, 5 new titles and an educational booklet to accompany the leaflets. There is also a new e-mail updates area where viewers can opt to be kept up to date with additions to the database by e-mail.

Book Review

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Whitehead, E. and T. Mason (2003). Study Skills for Nurses. London: Sage
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The above book has been written specifically for nurses, midwives and health visitors and is primarily aimed at students on these courses. However, sections of the book would be useful for any of the above professionals undertaking research and continuing professional development activities.

The book is split into chapters, each examining an aspect of study skills. At the beginning of each chapter, learning outcomes are provided, ensuring that readers can easily ascertain what the chapter is covering and what they should have learnt by the end of the chapter.

The authors advise that by reading from start to finish, the reader will get the best out of the books, but it is possible to be able to dip in and out of chapters at the students own pace as each chapter is complete in itself.

The authors have aimed to create a balance between text and illustrations to aid learning and to a large extent have been successful in this aim, using graphs, illustrations, diagrams etc. to supplement text and the layout is logical using a headings and subheadings approach. A summary of the chapter is also provided which does provide a useful checklist.

Following the summary, questions are provided, designed to test the reader on what they have learnt. These questions are quite theory based and I wonder how many readers would actually take (or have) the time to answer the questions. They look like short essay questions and are therefore potentially off-putting to the reader.

The practical session following the questions is probably far more useful and may seem more relevant to students, asking the reader to perform practical tasks to reinforce the learning outcomes.

The book covers the following subjects: How to manage time effectively; technology for nurses; managing literature and related material; assignment writing; referencing; passing examinations and other theoretical assessments; theory and practice; reflection; and personal and professional development.

Some chapters provide simple instructions and information for students to follow, such as a beginners guide to word-processing. However, the chapter on managing the literature includes an example search strategy which is fairly complex and perhaps better aimed at a student who has already got to grips with literature searching.

Overall, the book seems a useful tool for students who require help in study skills.