

Libraries for Nursing, a subgroup for the Health Libraries Group, Library Association helps disseminate information about models of good practice and new resources

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BOOK REVIEWS

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Daly, Jeanette M. *Writer's Guide to Nursing Periodicals*. California: Sage Publications, 2000. 297pp. ISBN 0761914919. £17.99.

The introduction to this book states that it is a single source for the specific guidelines required by the editors of ninety-nine nursing journals. It also claims to be useful for both novices and professional writers.

The book is divided into two sections. Part 1 *Writing publications in nursing journals* is a short section which could be useful for new writers. It gives general advice on how to get started, how to choose the publication to submit to and background information about the review process. There is also a small section about on-line journals, sample letters and a useful checklist for submission.

The second and larger section *Nursing journal guidelines for authors* contains separate entries for ninety-nine nursing journal titles. The author states that she aimed to include both prestigious and smaller titles in order to be useful for both established and new writers. The section is organised by specialty such as acute care, maternal/ child care and operative nursing, or by category such as administration, education and professional development. Each entry includes sections such as journal focus, journal facts, manuscript submission, manuscript preparation guidelines, information about the review process, copyright issues and sample article titles. The journal facts include where available the publication schedule, circulation, number of papers submitted and accepted each year, details of monetary honorarium, average publication and turnaround time, publication timetable and correspondence and web addresses.

While it is perhaps useful to have submission guidelines for these journals collected together, most of the information included is available in the instructions to authors that can be retrieved easily from either the print copy of the journal, or one of the internet sites dedicated to this purpose. It could also be argued that whereas the information in the book will quickly go out of date, the version published in the journal and on the internet will be regularly updated. It is also unfortunate that the entries do not include any titles published outside North America and some of the top ranked nursing journals such as *Cancer Nursing* and *Quality Health Research* are not included. Indeed of the top ten ranked nursing journals according to impact factor, five are omitted.

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Snodgrass, Mary Ellen. *Historical encyclopedia of nursing*. ABC-CLIO, 1999. xx, 354pp. ISBN 1 57067 0867 (hb). £39.95.

This American multicultural historical encyclopaedia features over 60 articles. Sources are listed for each entry and many are illustrated. Most are biographical but there are also longer essays on broader historical periods, for example, '*Ancient Times*' '*Twentieth-century nursing*'. Nurses at war is another theme with entries on nursing during the (American) revolutionary and civil wars, as well as the Korean, Vietnam and world wars. More generally, or possibly randomly, included are items on abortion, disease, hospices, nazi nurses, midwifery and gender issues. There is not much on research, education or nursing theories. A timeline is included, as is an alphabetical-by-title list of works by and about healers, though neither are indexed. The bibliography of this book, which is wide ranging and includes internet sites, tells us that the author has also written on women's history, mythology and literature. There are more librarians, archivists and booksellers listed in the acknowledgements than there are health professionals. An interesting but not essential book.
