'Finding articles with British Nursing Index': exploration of an online learning area

Caroline Lynch
Information Services Assistant Librarian
Royal College of Nursing, London
caroline.lynch@rcn.org.uk

Angela Perrett
Library and Information Services Manager
Royal College of Nursing, Cardiff
angela.perrett@rcn.org.uk

This article will explore the creation and content of an online learning area called 'Finding articles with BNI'. It is based on a poster presentation from the HLG Conference 2006.

In 2004 the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) undertook a UK-wide survey to find out what information nurses, health visitors, midwives and health care support workers need to support their practice and lifelong learning.

We found that:

- 44% of respondents felt they would benefit from training in **basic** information-searching skills
- 74% of respondents felt they would benefit from training in **advanced** information-searching skills

So, within our online **RCN Learning Zone** we developed a unique learning package 'Finding articles with BNI' for RCN members. This provides a step by

step interactive introduction to information seeking and literature searching, supplying those providing nursing care with the resources they need to support their professional development.

Within this learning area RCN members can:

• Learn how to undertake a search for journal articles using the BNI (British Nursing Index) database and print out articles available through the RCN online journals service.

• Develop information-searching skills which will enable them to find the information they need for practice and lifelong learning **quickly** and **effectively**. This will save their time and increase success in finding relevant information.

The skills learnt are not unique to BNI – they can be transferred to other databases.

Who should use this learning area?

• Anyone involved in providing nursing care who wishes to develop their information-searching skills.

• Beginners and those with some experience of literature searching who wish to develop their skills.

• Users of the RCN e-library who wish to learn how to search for journal articles using this service.

The learning area service is available **FREE** to all RCN members through the RCN Learning Zone **www.rcn.org.uk/learningzone**

Exploring the learning area

'Finding articles with BNI' is a step by step interactive guide that teaches how to search for journal articles using BNI, and print out articles available through the RCN online journals service. This article will now explore the range of learning activities and strategies used in the learning area.

Pam searches for …

The learning area includes a fictional case study which illustrates how information-searching skills can be used to support nursing care. Discover how Pam, a nurse on a children's surgical ward, finds information to improve post-operative pain relief.

Find out what you already know…

Learners can use the learning area in a way that suits them. It can be followed in order from beginning to end or by jumping straight into sections that appeal.

A quiz at the start of the learning area highlights which sections are most relevant to learners needs, which allows them to focus in on those.
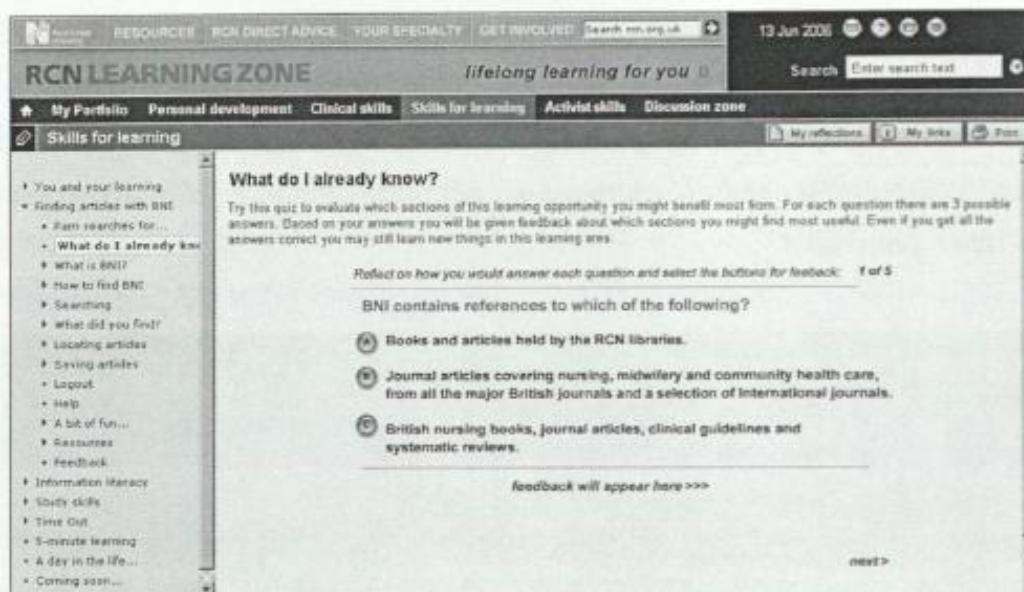
Varied and interactive...

The learning area includes short sections of text to read, demonstrations to watch, and activities to try. This variety ensures the learning area appeals to a range of learning styles.
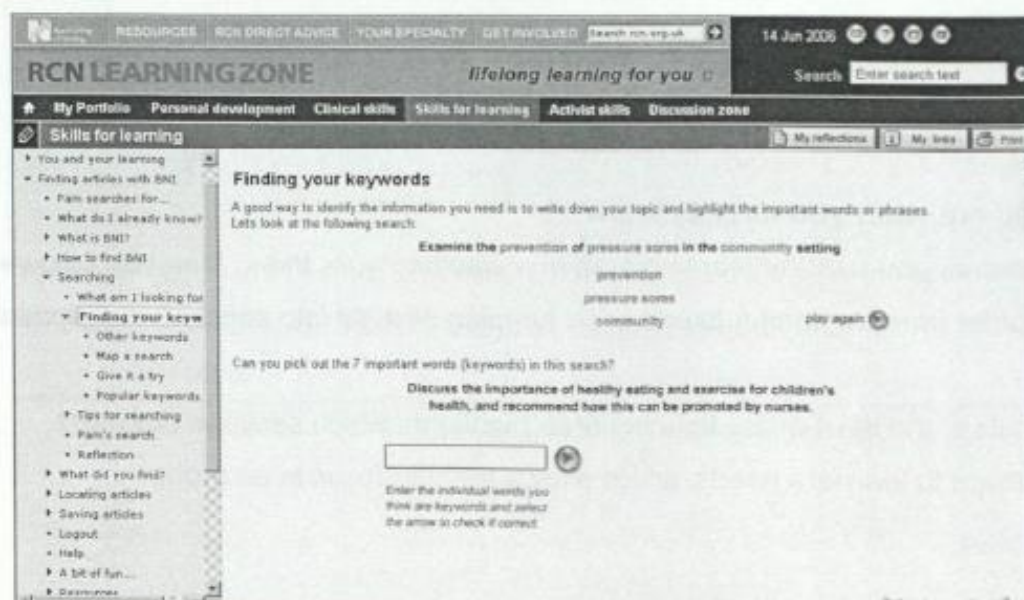
Give it a try...

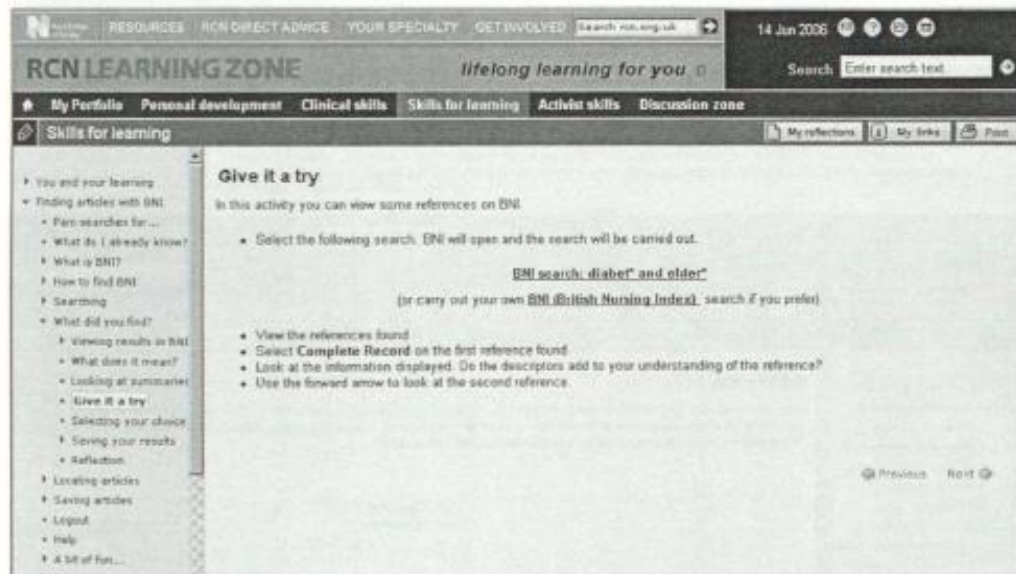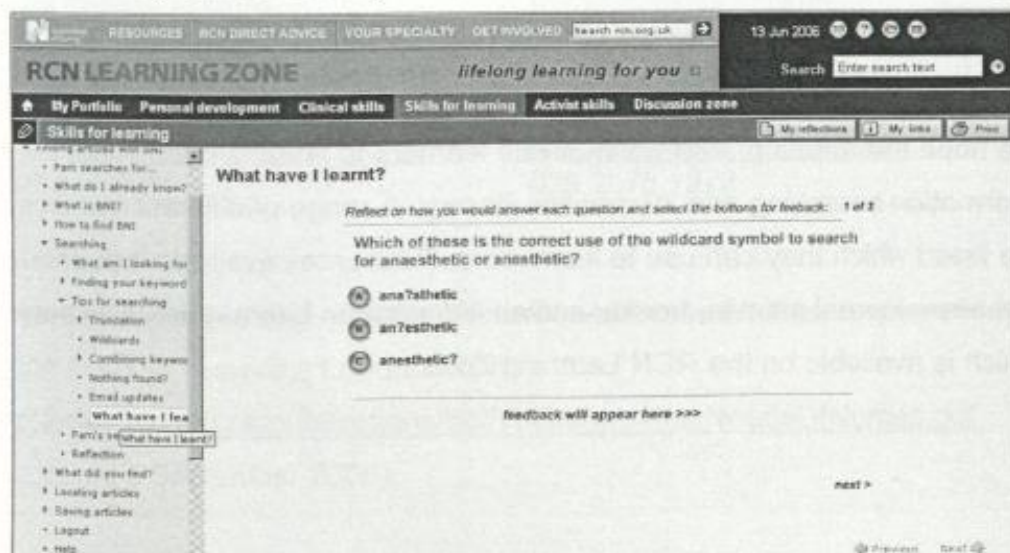It is important for learners to 'Give it a try' to reinforce their learning. This activity involves viewing references on the BNI database.


Multiple choice quiz...

Quizzes make the learning area really interactive and are available throughout the zone. They can be used by learners to evaluate their own understanding.

Reflection...

Learners develop an online portfolio on the RCN Learning Zone to capture information and evidence that relates to their personal and professional development. The learning area encourages them to reflect on their learning and record this in the online portfolio so they have a record of their development.
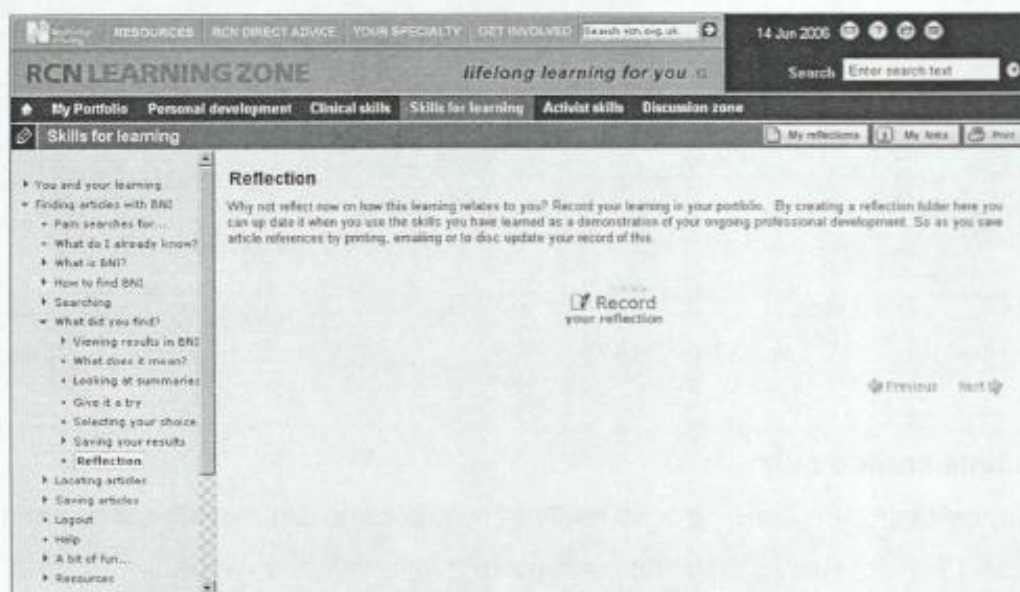
What next?

We hope this learning area will motivate learners to find out more about information searching and information literacy. A range of different resources are listed which they can use to learn more. Resources available include websites, journal articles, books, and an 'Information Literacy' learning area which is available on the RCN Learning Zone.
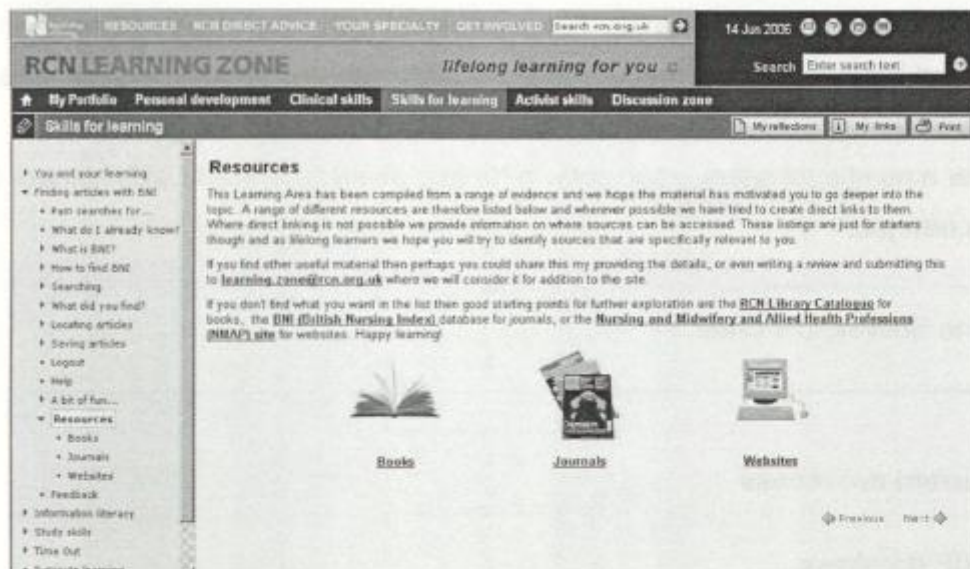
Conclusion

If you are not an RCN member and would like more information about the

learning area or a temporary password to access it please contact us at:

Caroline Lynch
Information Services
   Assistant Librarian
Royal College of Nursing
20 Cavendish Square
London WIG ORN
	Angela Perrett
	Library & Information Services
	   Manager
	Royal College of Nursing
	Ty Maeth
	King George V Drive East
	Cardiff CF14 4XZ

Email: caroline.lynch@rcn.org.uk 0207 647 3611	angela.perrett@rcn.org.uk 029 2075 1373

References

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(Accessed 5 September 2006).