

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

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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](http://www.rcn.org.uk/learningzone)

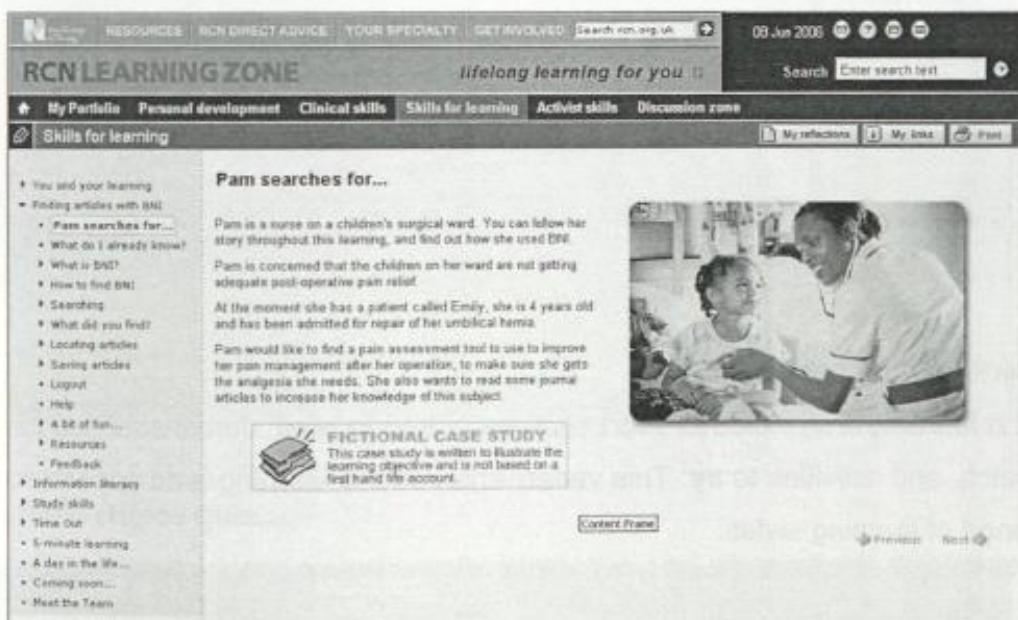
## Exploring the learning area

'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.

The screenshot shows the RCN Learning Zone website. At the top, there are navigation links: RESOURCES, RCN DIRECT ADVICE, YOUR SPECIALTY, GET INVOLVED, and a search bar. The date '08 Jun 2006' is also at the top. The main header 'RCN LEARNING ZONE' and the tagline 'lifelong learning for you' are visible. Below the header, there are more navigation links: My Portfolio, Personal development, Clinical skills, Skills for learning, Activist skills, and Discussion zone. A sidebar on the left is titled 'Skills for learning' and lists various topics under 'Finding articles with BNI'. The main content area features a large title 'FINDING articles with BNI' in bold, with a subtext 'This learning opportunity looks at how to approach a literature search using BNI (British Nursing Index), a key nursing database which is developed by RCN Library and Information Services in partnership with other organisations. Throughout there are demos, quizzes and opportunities which allow you to get to grips with searching this database. You can link to BNI to try things out as you go along and so put your learning into practice. The skills and techniques learnt can also be applied to other databases.' Below the title, it says 'By the end of this learning opportunity you will be able to undertake a search for journal articles using BNI and print out articles available through the RCN online journals service.' At the bottom of the content area, it says 'N.B. Screenshots of BNI and the online journal in this learning opportunity are provided courtesy of Ovid Technologies Ltd.'

### 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.



The screenshot shows a web page from the RCN Learning Zone. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'RESOURCES', 'RCN DIRECT ADVICE', 'YOUR SPECIALTY', 'GET INVOLVED', and a search bar. The main content area has a header 'lifelong learning for you...'. On the left, there is a sidebar with a navigation menu. The main content area contains text about a nurse named Pam and a 'FICTIONAL CASE STUDY' box. A photograph of a nurse interacting with a young girl is displayed on the right.

**RESOURCES** | **RCN DIRECT ADVICE** | **YOUR SPECIALTY** | **GET INVOLVED** | Search rcn.org.uk

**lifelong learning for you...**

**RCN LEARNING ZONE**

My Portfolio Personal development Clinical skills Skills for learning Activist skills Discussion zone

Skills for learning

Pam searches for...

Pam is a nurse on a children's surgical ward. You can follow her story through this learning, and find out how she used BNF. Pam is concerned that the children on her ward are not getting adequate post-operative pain relief. At the moment she has a patient called Emily, she is 4 years old and has been admitted for repair of her umbilical hernia. Pam would like to find a pain assessment tool to use to improve her pain management after her operation, to make sure she gets the analgesia she needs. She also wants to read some journal articles to increase her knowledge of this subject.

**FICTIONAL CASE STUDY**  
This case study is written to illustrate the learning objective and is not based on a real hand written account.

Content Frame | Previous | Next

### 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.

The screenshot shows a web page from the RCN Learning Zone. The top navigation bar includes links for 'My Portfolio', 'Personal development', 'Clinical skills', 'Skills for learning', 'Activist skills', and 'Discussion zone'. The main content area is titled 'What do I already know?'. It contains a list of questions and a list of possible answers. The user has selected the first answer, which is highlighted in blue. The page also includes a 'Search' bar and a 'next >' button.

### 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.

The screenshot shows a web page from the RCN Learning Zone. The top navigation bar includes links for 'My Portfolio', 'Personal development', 'Clinical skills', 'Skills for learning', 'Activist skills', and 'Discussion zone'. The main content area is titled 'Finding your keywords'. It contains a list of tips for searching, including 'Finding your keyw', 'Other keywords', 'Map a search', 'Give it a try', and 'Popular keywords'. The page also includes a search bar and a 'next >' button.

## 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.

**Give it a try**

In this activity you can view some references on BNI.

- Perform a search for...
- What do I already know?
- What is BNI?
- How to find BNI
- Searching
- What did you find?
  - Viewing results in BNI
  - What does it mean?
  - Looking at summaries
  - Give it a try
  - Selecting your choice
  - Saving your results
  - Reflection
- Locating articles
- Saving articles
- Logout
- Help
- A bit of fun...

**BNI search: diabet\* and older\***  
(or carry out your own BNI (British Nursing Index) search if you prefer)

- View the references found
- Select **Complete Record** on the first reference found
- Look at the information displayed. Do the descriptors add to your understanding of the reference?
- Use the forward arrow to look at the second reference

14 Jun 2006 | My reflections | My links | Print | Previous | Next | Search | Enter search text

## 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.

**What have I learnt?**

Reflect on how you would answer each question and select the buttons for feedback. 1 of 8

Which of these is the correct use of the wildcard symbol to search for anaesthetic or anesthetic?

ana?sthetic

an?esthetic

anesthetic

Feedback will appear here >>>

next > | < previous | Print | Search | Enter search text

**What have I learnt?**

- Performing a search for...
- What do I already know?
- What is BNI?
- How to find BNI
- Searching
- What did you find?
  - Viewing results in BNI
  - What does it mean?
  - Looking at summaries
  - Give it a try
  - Selecting your choice
  - Saving your results
  - Reflection
- Locating articles
- Saving articles
- Logout
- Help

### 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.

The screenshot shows the RCN Learning Zone homepage with a navigation bar at the top. The main content area is titled 'Skills for learning' and features a 'Reflection' section. The reflection section contains a list of steps for reflecting on learning, such as 'You and your learning', 'Finding articles with BNI', and 'What do I already know?'. There is also a 'Record your reflection' button with a checkbox. At the bottom of the reflection section, there are 'Previous' and 'Next' navigation links. The left sidebar contains a vertical list of links related to searching and learning, including 'You and your learning', 'Finding articles with BNI', 'What do I already know?', 'What is BNI?', 'How to find BNI', 'Searching', 'What did you find?', 'Viewing results in BNI', 'What does it mean?', 'Looking at summaries', 'Give it a try', 'Selecting your choice', 'Saving your results', 'Reflection', 'Locating articles', 'Saving articles', 'Logout', 'Help', 'A bit of fun...', and 'Resources'.

### 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.

RCN LEARNING ZONE *lifelong learning for you*

14 Jun 2006

Search  Enter search term

My Portfolio Personal development Clinical skills Skills for learning Activist skills Discussion zone

Skills for learning

You and your learning

- Finding articles with BNI
- Full searcher for...
- What do I already know?
- What is BNI?
- How to find BNI
- Searching
- What did you find?
- Locating articles
- Sorting articles
- Logout
- Help
- A bit of fun...
- Resources
  - Books
  - Journals
  - Websites
- Feedback
- Information literacy
- Study skills
- Time Out
- 5-minute learning

Resources

This Learning Area has been compiled from a range of evidence and we hope the material has motivated you to go deeper into the topic. A range of different resources are therefore listed below and wherever possible we have tried to create direct links to them. Where direct linking is not possible we provide information on where sources can be accessed. These listings are just for starters though and as lifelong learners we hope you will try to identify sources that are specifically relevant to you.

If you find other useful material then perhaps you could share this by providing the details, or even writing a review and submitting this to [learning.rcn.org.uk](http://learning.rcn.org.uk) where we will consider it for addition to the site.

If you don't find what you want in the list then good starting points for further exploration are the [RCN Library Catalogue](#) for books, the [BNI \(British Nursing Index\)](#) database for journals, or the [Nursing and Midwifery and Allied Health Professions \(NMAP\) site](#) for websites. Happy learning!

Books Journals Websites

Previous Next

## 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:

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## References

Royal College of Nursing. (2005). *The information needs of nurses: summary report of an RCN survey*, London: RCN.  
<http://www.rcn.org.uk/publications/pdf/TheInformationNeedsOfNurses.pdf>  
 (Accessed 5 September 2006).