

'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.

The screenshot shows the RCN Learning Zone website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: RESOURCES, RCN DIRECT ADVICE, YOUR SPECIALTY, GET INVOLVED, and a search bar. The date 08 Jun 2006 is displayed. Below this is the 'RCN LEARNING ZONE' header with the tagline 'lifelong learning for you'. A secondary navigation bar includes: My Portfolio, Personal development, Clinical skills, Skills for learning (selected), Activist skills, and Discussion zone. Under 'Skills for learning', there are links for My reflections, My links, and Print. The main content area is titled 'Finding articles with BNI'. It features a large heading 'FINDING articles with BNI' and a paragraph explaining that this learning opportunity teaches how to approach a literature search using BNI (British Nursing Index), a key nursing database developed by RCN Library and Information Services in partnership with other organisations. It mentions that there are demos, quizzes, and opportunities to get to grips with searching this database. A second paragraph states that by the end of this learning opportunity, users will be able to undertake a search for journal articles using BNI and print out articles available through the RCN online journals service. A third paragraph credits the learning area to Caroline Lynch, Assistant Librarian, RCN UK Library, London and Angela Penrett, Library and Information Services Manager, RCN Wales, noting that the site was reviewed prior to publication by Maureen Dwyer, Librarian, RCN Northern Ireland and Enid Forsyth, Librarian, RCN Scotland. At the bottom, a small note states: 'All screen shots of BNI and the online journals in BNI learning opportunity are provided courtesy of Ovid Technologies Ltd.'

Pam searches for ...

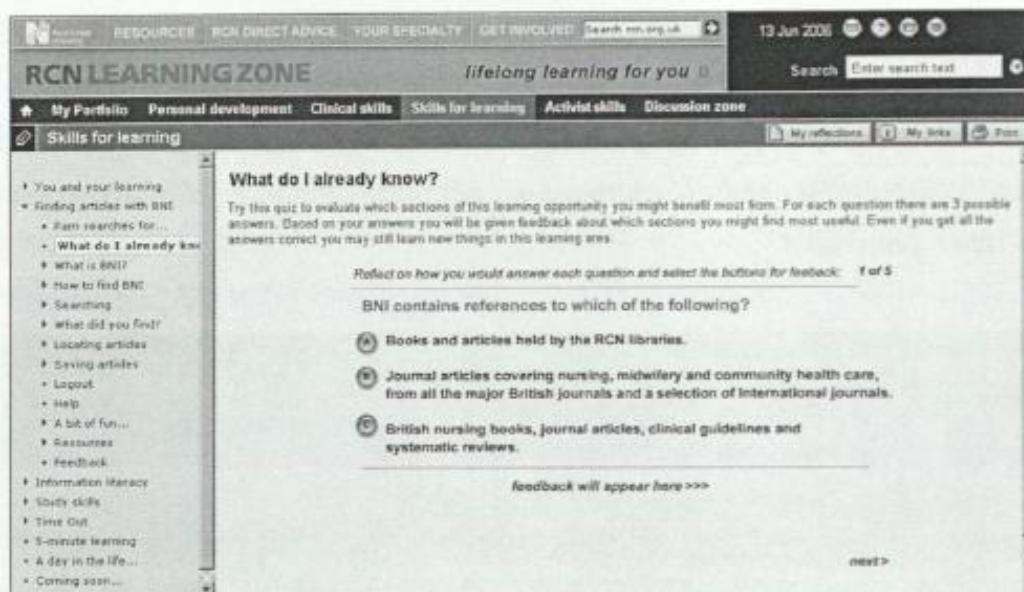
The learning area includes a fictional case study which illustrates how information-searching skills can be used to support nursing care. Discover how Pam, a nurse on a children's surgical ward, finds information to improve post-operative pain relief.

The screenshot shows the RCN Learning Zone interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'RESOURCES', 'RCN DIRECT ADVICE', 'YOUR SPECIALTY', and 'GET INVOLVED'. Below this is a search bar and a date '09 Jun 2006'. The main header reads 'RCN LEARNING ZONE' with the tagline 'lifelong learning for you'. A secondary navigation bar includes 'My Portfolio', 'Personal development', 'Clinical skills', 'Skills for learning', 'Activist skills', and 'Discussion zone'. The 'Skills for learning' section is active, showing a list of topics on the left: 'You and your learning', 'Finding articles with BNI', 'Pam searches for...', 'What do I already know?', 'What is BNI?', 'How to find BNI', 'Searching', 'What did you find?', 'Locating articles', 'Saving articles', 'Logout', 'Help', 'A bit of fun...', 'Resources', 'Feedback', 'Information library', 'Study skills', 'Time Out', '5-minute learning', 'A day in the life...', 'Coming soon...', and 'Meet the Team'. The main content area is titled 'Pam searches for...' and contains a fictional case study about a nurse named Pam who is looking for information to improve post-operative pain relief for a patient named Emily. A small image shows a nurse attending to a child. Below the text is a 'FICTIONAL CASE STUDY' icon and a 'Content Frame' button. At the bottom right, there are 'Previous' and 'Next' navigation arrows.

Find out what you already know...

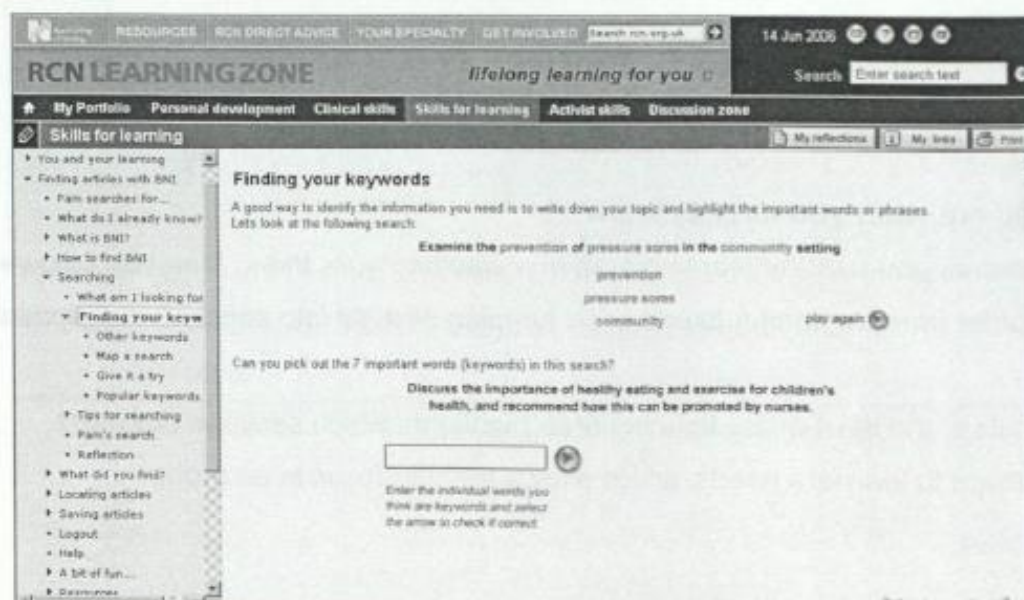
Learners can use the learning area in a way that suits them. It can be followed in order from beginning to end or by jumping straight into sections that appeal.

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.



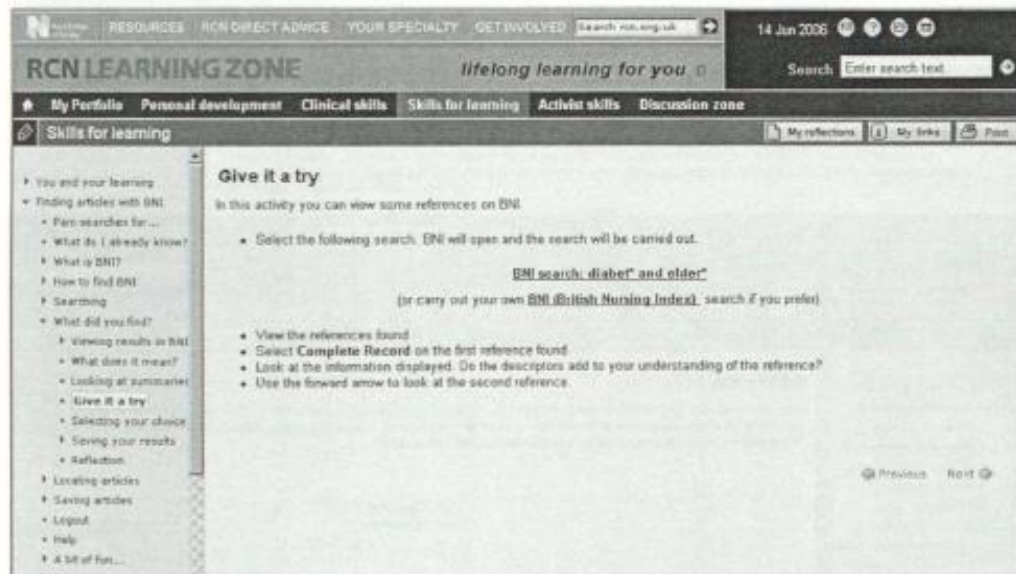
Varied and interactive...

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.



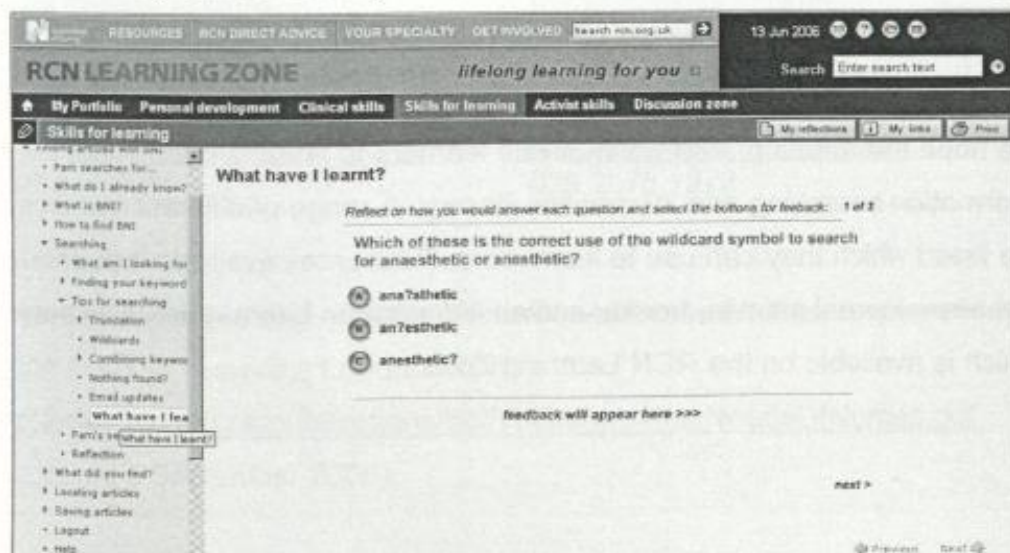
Give it a try...

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



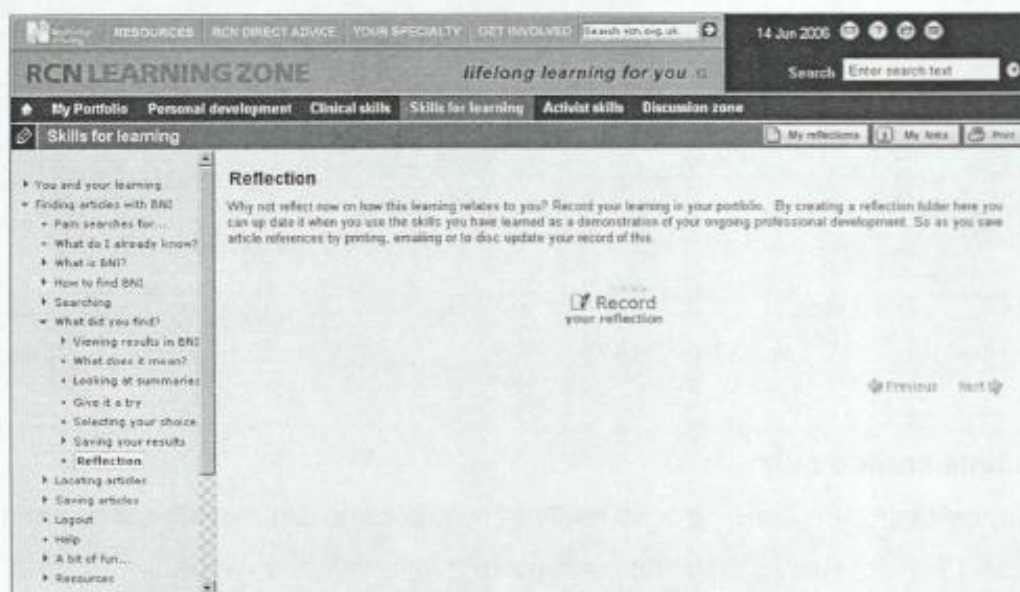
Multiple choice quiz...

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



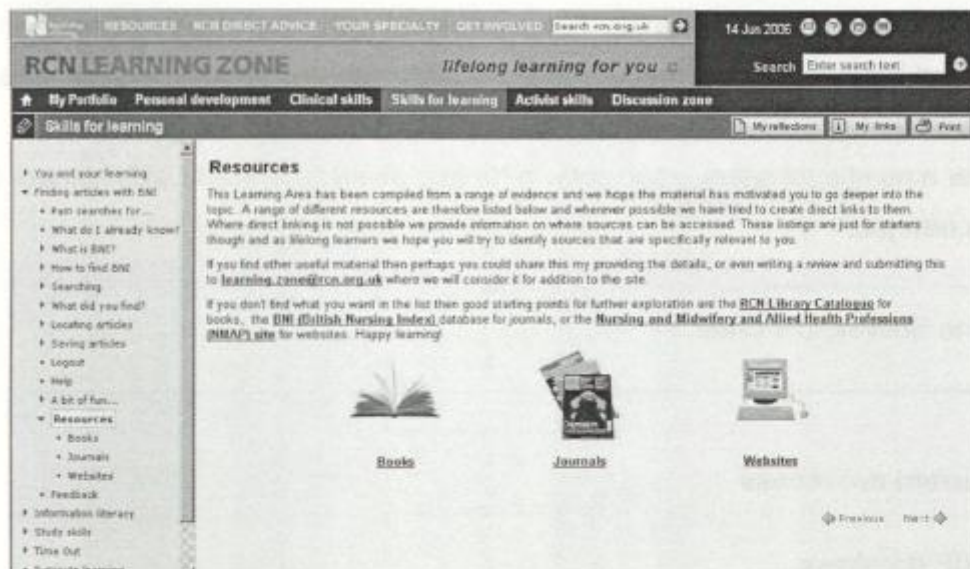
Reflection...

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 W1G 0RN

Email: caroline.lynch@rcn.org.uk
0207 647 3611

Angela Perrett
Library & Information Services
Manager
Royal College of Nursing
Ty Maeth
King George V Drive East
Cardiff CF14 4XZ
angela.perrett@rcn.org.uk
029 2075 1373

References

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<http://www.rcn.org.uk/publications/pdf/TheInformationNeedsOfNurses.pdf>

(Accessed 5 September 2006).