

Intute: Health and Life Sciences Blog

<http://www.intute.ac.uk/healthandlifesciences/blog/>

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1. Introduction

The Intute: Health & Life Sciences blog <http://www.intute.ac.uk/healthandlifesciences/> was launched in April 2007. Our blog is designed to:

- ❖ highlight **topical issues** of interest to the wider health and life sciences community
- ❖ share news, views, and forthcoming events
- ❖ link to resources from our own service (including our own publications)
- ❖ highlight websites that may not yet be in our catalogue but are of interest to our core audience

Our blog consists of posts or entries made by the core Intute: Health & Life Sciences team and our external content providers. Each team member monitors many different media sources (journals, news services, and other blogs) and we have found that our blog is a useful tool for promoting and marketing our service. Readers of our blog come to it via an RSS feed <http://www.intute.ac.uk/healthandlifesciences/blog/feed/>

2. What to blog...

As an 'organisational' rather than a personal blog we decided to keep the blog focused and in line with the broad subject coverage of Intute: Health & Life Sciences. We identified the following categories for postings:

- ❖ group news
- ❖ agriculture, food & forestry

- ❖ bioethicsweb
- ❖ biological research
- ❖ medicine
- ❖ natural history
- ❖ nursing, midwifery & allied health
- ❖ veterinary

We include factual, narrative or reflective (opinion) entries and very often a blog posting can be a hybrid of all of these.

2.1 Factual entries

These describe issues in the news, events and conferences, and Intute: Health & Life Sciences news. Examples include:

- ❖ announcement of a hot topic
- ❖ publication of a major report
- ❖ disease outbreak
- ❖ information on our collections policy
- ❖ new and interesting resources

2.2 Narrative entries

These are autobiographical about happenings in the lives of the blog authors. Examples include:

- ❖ personal views after attending a conference
- ❖ chocolate addiction (among staff members) and the effects on our health
- ❖ what it was like to work for the World Health Organization (WHO)

2.3 Reflective entries

These include providing an opinion on a particular topic. Examples include:

- ❖ providing an opinion on a particular topic relevant to the health and life sciences community

3. Developments

We opened up our blog for comments in October 2007 as we felt strongly that this would encourage community participation, and subsequently users are allowed to comment on all our blog postings. In February 2008 we created a Blogroll – which is basically a list of links to other blogs which we read regularly and thought may be of interest to our users. The Blogroll can be found beneath are archived postings.

4. Personal reflections

It is almost a year now since we launched our blog and I thought I would share with you some of the issues you may wish to take into account if you are thinking about launching a blog for your library or information service:

Is a blog the right tool for your needs?

Open or closed access?

Develop a personal blog action plan

Regular postings are essential

Keep your blog fresh

Quality and not quantity is important

Promote your blog

Moderate postings and comments

Investigate blogging by reading blogs

Join a mailing list such as lis-bloggers

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/LIS-BLOGGERS.html>

For Intute: Health & Life Sciences the benefits of having a blog include: exposing our expertise in Internet research skills and awareness of Internet technologies (Web 2.0); helps to build on our role as "authoritative mentor"; increase our outreach in the blogosphere; an additional marketing/promotion tool; strengthens our links with our user community; and we have all acquired a new skill.

Intute: Health & Life Sciences blog - pages served during January 2008 was 21,859

What's Hot? A selection of new Web resources added to Intute: Health & Life Sciences

An investigation of the emergent professional issues experienced by nurses when working in an e-health environment

<http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/cfpd/pdf/prdiepjen.pdf>

This report (published in September 2007) is a collaborative project between the Information in Nursing Forum at the Royal College of Nursing and the School of Health and Social Care, Bournemouth.

Number for Nurses Computer Assisted Learning package

<http://unow.nottingham.ac.uk/resources/resource.aspx?hid=e04e898f-45d0-98bc-04c2-437a7860bd89>

A computer assisted learning package that aims to help nursing students understand the principles of maths and calculations and to gain competency in the application of number skills that is required in professional nursing practice, particularly important in the accurate calculation of drug dosages administered to patients. Provided by the University of Nottingham.

Guidance for new nurse managers in hospices and specialist palliative care units

http://www.rcn.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/143823/003211.pdf

Published in January 2008, this document was produced by the Royal College of Nursing forum for nurse managers in hospices and specialist palliative care units.

Reusable Learning Object: Should Sarah smack her child?

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/nursing/sonet/rlos/sociology/sarah/>

This RLO explores the ethical dimension and different views surrounding the use of mild smacking as a means of punishment. This RLO is published on the Web by the University of Nottingham.

Royal College of Physicians - Climate change and its impact on health

<http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/event/ArchiveEvent/0801Climate.aspx>

The proceedings of a meeting on "Climate change and its impact on health", held at the Royal College of Physicians on 29th January 2008 are presented here.

Drug Information Portal (U.S. National Library of Medicine)

<http://druginfo.nlm.nih.gov/drugportal/drugportal.jsp>

A gateway to selected drug information from the National Library of Medicine and other key government agencies.

Mental health of prisoners: a thematic review of the care and support of prisoners with mental health needs

[http://inspectortates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmiprisons/thematic-reports1/Mental Health.pdf](http://inspectortates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmiprisons/thematic-reports1/Mental%20Health.pdf)

Published by HM Inspectorate of Prisons in October 2007, this report describes the conditions and treatment of the large number of mentally disordered people in prison.

Nursing-informatics.com

<http://nursing-informatics.com/>

This website is produced by a Canadian nurse specialising in health informatics. It provides information on courses, a self assessment questionnaire, an informatics news blog, a newsletter and useful links.

Cancer Tales – Communicating in cancer care

<http://www.cancertales.org/>

This workbook aims to improve communication skills for all people involved in the care of patients with cancer.
