



# Transforming Nursing Practice for Today's World: Teaching Information Literacy Skills to Nurses as Preparation for Evidence-Based Nursing Practice

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## GOALS:

- Plan, develop, and disseminate instructional programs promoting information literacy skills among professional nurses working in a variety of settings as a precursor for research utilization and the promotion of evidence-based nursing practices (EBNP)
- Measure information use, attitudes and skills required for evidence-based practice among a selected subgroup of practicing nurses

## SPONSORSHIP:

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- The National Network of Libraries of Medicine - Southeastern/Atlantic Region (NN/LM-SE/A)
- Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library of The George Washington University

## PARTNERS/PARTICIPANTS:

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Arlington County, Virginia

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (2005 Annual Meeting)

National Association of School Nurses (2005 Annual Meeting Pre-session Conference)

Health Services employees – Prince George's County Public Schools,  
Prince George's County, Maryland

Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (2005 Annual Meeting)

Education and Professional Development department registered nurses,  
The George Washington University Hospital

The George Washington School of Nursing Education graduate students

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## BACKGROUND:

- The library identified the importance of information literacy, informatics and evidence-based nursing practice as key skills in today's healthcare environment. Because nurses are the largest group of healthcare professionals, these professionals were identified for this project.
- Over two years ago, the library began a series of outreach programs to identify nurses working in a variety of clinical settings for skill set development. These cohorts were invited to participate in single or multiple instructional sessions promoting and developing information literacy, literature retrieval, and evaluation skills.
- An introduction to evidence-based nursing practice (EBNP) was included to highlight the importance of these skill sets and resources in current practice.

## METHODS:

This project uses a multi-faceted approach to develop information literacy skills and promote evidence-based practice among practicing nurses. The majority of participants attended instructional sessions lasting from 2 -6 hours. The topics covered in the sessions were:

- Definition of evidence-based nursing practice
- Role of information literacy in nursing practice in the 21st Century
- How EBNP differs from traditional nursing practice
- Types of resources available to inform nursing practice
- Quality resources for use in EBNP

A subgroup of nurses was also identified to participate in the measurement of attitudes and skills relating to information use in practice. During the past 6 months, the Principle Investigator:

- Obtained IRB approval
- Developed and facilitated instructional sessions
- Created and collected demographic and attitudinal questionnaires
- Distributed and collected *pre-interventional* surveys measuring information usage and skills

## OUTCOMES:

During the past 15 months:

- All participants were invited to attend instructional sessions
  - 12 sessions were conducted
  - 600+ nurses attended instructional sessions
- Selected subgroup of 20 participants:
  - Agreed to participate and gave informed consent
  - Completed a *pre-interventional* demographic and attitudinal survey
    - ❖ Survey data shows:
 

♦ 100% female	♦ 90% felt knowledgeable using computers and technology in practice
♦ 65% Caucasian, 20% African-American, 5% Asian, 10% Other	♦ 100% acknowledged the need to access information to perform job successfully
♦ 5% Associate degree, 75% BSN degree, 20% MSN degree	♦ 100% described their use of information as above average or better
♦ 50% have been working in nursing for over 22 years	♦ 95% desired more training in information usage and skill building
♦ 75% working for current organization for 5+ years	

## FUTURE PLANS:

- Will continue to provide additional instructional sessions
- Will collect series of post-interventional survey data measuring information usage and skills

## EVALUATION:

- For the majority of the participants, this was the initial introduction to the concept and principles of information literacy and evidence-based nursing practice
- This project has received exceptionally high ratings via session evaluations among participants
- Instructional programs continue to be requested for additional groups of nurses
- The data gathered from the selected subgroup has yielded new insights to the role of information access, usage and skill development in the practice of modern nursing practice
- Additional efforts should be devoted to addressing the information needs and abilities of practicing nurses