

St. Joseph’s School of Nursing

Project Title: Library Resource Support Documentation

Client Information:

Gary Maggi
Head Librarian, Knowledge Based Information Services
St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center
301 Prospect Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13203-1898
(315) 448-5443
Email: gary.magi@sjhsyr.org



St. Joseph’s School of Nursing Library serves as a resource for a group of 1,500 nurses, 100 teaching faculty and educators, and 275 nursing students. The library system resources include clinical and academic materials.

Instructional Designers:

IDE 601 students – Fall 2002

Ingrid Delapp – Email: idelapp@powerfcu.net
(315) 625-4331

Aaron Fried – Email: goatbros@hotmail.com
(315) 422-7028

Executive Overview:

Seven different databases contain abstracts of current literature within the library system. A gap in knowledge currently exists for some library users to efficiently access this information via the seven different search engines.

Project efforts have been directed to better understand how the search engines work, to learn how to access information quickly, to better understand the gaps in user knowledge in order to design the appropriate instructional tool.

The client desires a resource, which will serve as a straightforward training tool, and serve as a quick reference for all users. This tool would provide both instruction and serve as an ongoing reference for users seeking clinical or academic materials that are electronically accessible.

The document designed leads users through the steps necessary to access the databases successfully and efficiently, as well as addressing language issues specific to individual databases. This document may be made available in printed form near computers which users access, as well as on the library system intranet.

Background:

Users will have different levels of experience conducting searches and accessing library system resources. Long-term staff may require a quick refresher while new users require step-by-step information to learn to conduct a successful search.

Targeted Audience:

The target audience will include nurses, teaching faculty and educators, as well as nursing students.

Problem Statement:

Students and staff at St. Joseph’s hospital have indicated that the main problem that they encounter when searching involves the amount of information that the databases retrieve. Either the search yields too many or too few results. Additionally, searches often yield references that are not specific to an individual topic.

The students and staff also indicated that a reference in the library or online might prove to be helpful.

Instructional Goals:

- 🌐 Users may demonstrate their ability to conduct a successful search using the search engines on the library system.
- 🌐 Users may demonstrate improved ability to plan and strategize their searches.
- 🌐 Users may understand and demonstrate the skills needed to modify their search if their initial efforts result in too few or too many sources.

- Users will be aware of and understand the implications of searching for journal items in St. Joseph’s local holdings.

Instructional Strategy:

The users will be provided with a two-page information sheet offering step-by-step instructions to conduct a successful search using the 7 library databases. KEY TERMS are defined. Sample searches are provided which highlight the different strategy results. Quantified results are illustrated using text and visuals to provide the learner with an illustrated process to follow to achieve their desired results.

The instructional information will be available both in print and electronic form. Learners will be able to access the information as needed or “on demand”.

Deliverables to Client:

- Survey instrument used to assess current user knowledge and concerns or issues.
- Summary of survey instrument results.
- Two-page tool entitled “Guide to Searching Medical Databases at St. Joseph’s School of Nursing”. The final tool will be delivered as a Word document and it will also be coded into a pdf file as well as an html file.

References:

Educational Resources Information Center (2000). All about ERIC^R. Washington, DC: National Library of Education.