Using the ICIRN Essential Nursing Resources List to Evaluate Library Collections

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Objective

- To evaluate libraries’ online nursing collections for how their resources align with the Interagency Council on Information Resources in Nursing (ICIRN) Essential Nursing Resources (ENR) list.

Methods

- A random sample of 235 nursing programs was created from 571 Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accredited schools. Data on the level of degrees was collected from the CCNE.
- Data was collected between April 2013-September 2013.
- Library collections from these programs were compared to free and subscription-based resources from the following categories: Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Consumer Health and Patient Education, Databases and Indexes, Drugs, and Evidence-Based Nursing.
- Non-government websites (i.e. non-profit and for profit websites) and print resources were excluded. Resources from outside the U.S. also were excluded except for the Joanna Briggs Institute.
- The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education provided institutional data (ex. total number of students).
- The National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) directory was searched to determine if these libraries were members.
- Resources not on the ENR list were also recorded.

Results

- 225 was the final number of library websites examined. 2 schools were excluded because they were not in the U.S. 8 schools were excluded because the library resources were not listed on the library website or were behind a proxy server.
- 113 (50%) programs had both BSN and MSN programs. 61 (27%) were BSN only while 41 (18%) had MSN, and DNP programs.
- 6 colleges had nursing programs only. 38 also had medical schools.
- 74 schools (33%) had a total student population between 1,001-5,000. 2 schools were not included in the Carnegie Classification.
- 125 (55%) libraries were members of the NN/LM while 101 (45%) were not members.
- NN/LM members listed NLM or government resources more frequently on their websites compared to non-NN/LM libraries.

Table: Sample of Resources Not on ENR Resources List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample of Resources Not on ENR Resources List</th>
<th>Number of Libraries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PsyArticles</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Direct</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CG Resarcher</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Source Nursing Academic Edition</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Source Consumer Edition</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pubmed Central</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Health Complete</td>
<td>57</td>
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<tr>
<td>AccessMedicine</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scopus</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LexiComp</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion

- More outreach needs to be done with non-NN/LM libraries for either membership recruitment or promoting government resources such as LactMed.
- While there are more subscriptions to point-of-care tools traditionally geared towards physicians such as DynaMed, it may be due to the institution having additional health sciences programs.

Limitations

- Some resources may have not been recorded due to how they were categorized or their location on library websites.

Conclusions

- The majority of libraries do provide access to core or specialized databases such as CINAHL and multiple versions of MEDLINE.
- NN/LM members are including government resources such as MedlinePlus on their resource guides or database lists.
- Additional resources should be considered for the ENR’s next update.

References