

Bridging the Health Information Gap for Hospital Nurses

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THE GAP

- Community hospital nurses unable to efficiently access knowledge-based resources
- Time constraints, shift work and clinical responsibilities limit library visits
- The College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba requires documentation of the use of knowledge-based resources for continuing competency
- Lack of nurse leaders projected due to demographics

THE BLUEPRINTS

- “Information intervention” required for front line nurses
- Affiliation agreement between the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and the University of Manitoba launched the development of hospital library services
- New service model developed to facilitate access to knowledge-based resources

THE BRIDGE

- Five innovative onsite and virtual library programs and services were constructed:

1. On the Unit

- Visits by the hospital librarian to inpatient units
- Promotion of new books, articles and library services

2. Competency Collection

- Customized nursing information packages
- Pathfinders includes a topic bibliography and articles

3. Info-RN: a newsletter for nurses

- Electronic newsletter highlighting nursing resources
- Published 3 times per year and distributed to hospital nurses, University of Manitoba faculty & students

4. Webliographies

- Online resource guide of books, journal articles and web sites
- Links to library catalogue and licensed full-text resources

5. Nursing Leadership Project

- Librarian-Nurse partnership to facilitate the growth of nurse leaders
- Online resources and discussion forum developed to support the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Nursing Leadership framework

THE GREEN LIGHTS

- Efficient access to knowledge-based resources
- Reduced time constraint and clinical responsibility issues
- Library viewed as competency support
- Promoted advancement of potential nurse leaders
- Library visibility increased
- Collection development augmented by direct contact with unit nurses

THE RED LIGHTS

- Labour intensive
- Reduced in-library time for Librarian
- “On the Unit ” requires nurse manager/educator support
- Programs best suited to non-urgent care areas

