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Readiness and Necessity for Self-directed Learning Among Nursing Students in Japan

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Abstract and objective

In nursing education, self-directed learning is important for both nursing students and nurses [1]. The objective of this study was to understand information-related learning behaviors in order to establish a self-directed learning curriculum for nurses. In addition, the information-use environment for clinical nurses was also considered. Nursing students were surveyed using a questionnaire, and a clinical nurse was interviewed. More than half of the nursing students were dissatisfied with regard to document retrieval. Difficulties between the conformability of the search terms and the search results were a concern. Regarding the information-use environment and information-seeking behaviors, many students requested that the library service be attended. Some suggested that training for performing scholarly information searches specializing in the nursing field and for evaluating search results would be useful.

Keywords:

students, nursing; education, nursing; education, professional; curriculum; information storage and retrieval

Methods

Survey for nursing students

Forty-nine students completed a questionnaire survey regarding information retrieval and the information needs of nursing students.

Interview with a clinical nurse

We interviewed a nurse with more than 20 years of clinical nursing experience. The interview included questions regarding her information needs and the information-use environment in clinical settings. The results were analyzed using a qualitative method.

Results

Survey for nursing students

More than half of the nursing students were dissatisfied with the information-use environment and the information retrieval process. Specifically, they found the selection of keywords for document retrieval to be difficult and the system to be unadaptable.

Interview with a clinical nurse

Information-use environment

The nurse used Internet search engines, e-mail, and the university library at her office and at home and was proactive with regard to seeking information. However, she reported that her colleagues had various difficulties.

Information needs in clinical settings

Information regarding medicine was the most frequent topic of her information searches. Original documents were the most difficult items to obtain.

Conclusion

Nursing students and clinical nurses are rather uncertain with regard to how they should seek needed information. Their difficulties were exacerbated by the diversity of their information needs, time restrictions, and the information-use environment. We think that the creation of a self-directed learning curriculum for nursing students is needed in Japan.

Reference

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