



Queen's University
Belfast

Finding Information about Nursing and Midwifery

Using the Medical Library

This guide provides a brief introduction to sources of information for nursing and midwifery. If you require any further information or guidance on using the resources outlined, please contact your subject librarian, Patricia Watt, who is based in the Queen's University Medical Library on the Royal Victoria Hospital site (email: p.watt@qub.ac.uk or tel: 028 9063 2502).

Finding print resources in the Medical Library

Books are a good place to start looking for information on a topic. There is a range of nursing and midwifery books and journals in print format, in the Medical Library. The current issues of journals are on display beside the Borrower Services Desk area, the older issues are bound and shelved in the main stack area, as are the books.

Books and journals have a shelfmark on the spine which indicates their subject and enables them to be shelved in order. You will need to obtain the shelfmark to locate the printed resources in the Library. This can be done by checking the library catalogue (QCat) either from the computer terminals in the library (opposite the Borrower Services Desk) or via the library website where you will find a link for *Library Catalogue*. You can search the catalogue for a specific title or by using the keyword option to search for a general topic area.

Web access to library resources

Information about library services and access to electronic information resources is available through the library website:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/InformationServices/TheLibrary/>

Access to the electronic information resources is available through any PC (on or off campus) with internet access. If you require a username and password, you will be prompted for your QUB staff/student number (or QUB email address) and your Queen's online password.

Electronic databases

Databases are the most effective way of searching for current literature (or journal articles) on a given topic. All databases available to you are listed on the library website under *Online Resources*, and then *Q-Search*. Login with your staff/student number and your Queen's Online password. You can select *Find Database* from the toolbar along the top of the screen and search for your required database. Alternatively you can search for a database via QCat. Below is a list of databases of most relevance to nursing and midwifery.

CINAHL – The Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature provides authoritative coverage of the literature relating to nursing and allied health in the English language. More than 1600 journals are indexed with more than 11,000 subject headings to allow specific searching.

Maternity and Infant Care – Maternity and Infant Care is an essential resource for healthcare professionals and academics involved in the care of women and infants. It

contains over 120,000 references with abstracts from over 550 international English language journals, books and grey literature. Coverage is from the mid 1980's onwards with approximately 1000 records added to the database every month.

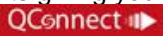
Medline – this database is widely recognised as the premier source for bibliographic coverage of biomedical literature. MEDLINE encompasses a database of nearly 10 million bibliographic citations and abstracts in the fields of medicine, nursing, midwifery, dentistry, veterinary medicine etc. Coverage extends back to 1966 and new material is incorporated weekly.

Cochrane Library – The Cochrane Library consists of a regularly updated collection of evidence-based medicine databases, including The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews – evidence-based systematic reviews prepared by the Cochrane Collaboration which provide high quality information to people providing and receiving care and those responsible for research, teaching, funding and administration at all levels.

Web of Science – part of the Web of Knowledge service, this database contains over 36 million records and permits searching across disciplines using the Science Citation Index, Social Science Citation Index and Arts & Humanities Citation Index.

Finding e-journals

There is an extensive range of journals available electronically, which means you can access the full text of journal articles without having to visit the library. There are various ways of checking if the full text of an article is available electronically.

1. E-Journals List – the e-journals list is found on the library website under *Online Resources*, and then by clicking on *E-Journals*. The journal can be browsed by the *Title* list function or by selecting Health Sciences from the *Subject* list and choosing one of the subcategories (eg Nursing) relevant to your search.
2. Database Search – when you perform a search on one of the databases you obtain a list of results giving you a brief bibliographic outline of the article. On this page you will see the  button. If you click on this button you will be directed to the full text if it is available or it will indicate if there is no full text available.

Additional guidance

On the library website there is an option *Online Resources by Subject* found under *Online Resources*, which enables you to look at only resources that are specific to your subject area. By selecting *Nursing and Midwifery* from the drop down menu under the *Medicine and Health Sciences* section, you will find not only a list of relevant databases but useful web engines, professional organisations, statistics and current awareness tools.

Other QUB nursing and midwifery collections

There are other, smaller nursing and midwifery collections, containing mainly reading list material in the Biomedical Library on the Belfast City Hospital site, and in the McClay Library (short loan only) on the main University campus.