Using Canvas to Teach Literature Search Techniques in CINAHL & PubMed to Nursing Students

Background
At the University of California, Irvine, Sue A & Bill Gross School of Nursing hosts their junior year. One of the fall courses, “Fundamentals of Professional Nursing Practice,” features the online and simulation of patient experiences. The development of critical thinking is a core component of the course and the integration of class and the simulation environment is high. Using Canvas, the instructor has created a literature search assignment that requires students to conduct a literature search in PubMed and CINAHL for their topic. The assignment followed an in-class instruction session.

The goal is to teach student nurses how to use the tools needed to complete the course assignment, and to familiarize them with the search strategies and the databases. The librarian and the faculty member provide classroom instruction and further feedback as students are taking the quiz.

Worksheet Submission by Email – 2007-2014
For the first version of the assignment, students were required to send their completed assignments via email to the librarian. The templates would be reviewed by the librarian who provided feedback to each student.

Using both PubMed and CINAHL, students were asked to find 2 articles from each database for their topic. The articles were to be in the English language and published in the last 10 years.

Worksheet Submission Online via Library Website – 2015-2016
In 2015, it was decided to create an online worksheet based on those used for the first version of the course. The worksheet was piloted for the junior class and was used for the ensuing years.

As with the previous assignment, students were asked to find articles in PubMed or CINAHL for each topic. The first search strategy included the number of citations and the authors of the articles. Students were allowed to choose their own clinical or ethical topic from a vignette based on the literature search.

The assignment was graded on a 10-point scale: 2 points for each correct article; 1 point each for each citation; 1 point for each tap; 1 point for each limit; and 1 point for each citation.

Using the Canvas learning management system (LMS), the librarian has prepared an assignment for students to complete a literature search in PubMed and CINAHL for their topic. The assignment followed an in-class instruction session.

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Advantages
• The quiz was more integrated with the coursework, and seen by students as just an extension of the class.
• The assignment did not always achieve the goal of teaching basic search techniques.

Future Directions & Options
Canvas Assignment vs. Quiz
• The workshop can be made available as a editable PDF from which can be uploaded by the student nurse.
• Waiver of HIPAA for this assignment can be annotated with comments and highlighted in a similar fashion to making a private PDF document. This raises the feedback and curriculum options.

Future options include:
• Students are able to edit the PDF while offline and upload it into Canvas.
• The file when finished editing the need for allowing multiple attempts.

Canvas Quiz plus Assignment
• The autograder 20 question quiz appears to be fairly successful in ensuring proper information to the databases and the appropriateness of their topics (not too narrow or broad) were covered.

Survey Given at the End of the Quizzes
• The quiz was more integrated with the coursework, and seen by students as just an extension of the class.

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Quiz #1 Introduction to CINAHL & PubMed: Instructions to Students
CINAHL Plus with Full Text (Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature) is a comprehensive database consisting of nursing and allied health literature. It covers the scope and standards of professional nursing practice. CINAHL Plus with Full Text (Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature) is a comprehensive database consisting of nursing and allied health literature. It covers the scope and standards of professional nursing practice.

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