Library Services Supporting AD Nursing at Northland Community and Technical College

The libraries at Northland Community & Technical College offer collections and services that support the course and program offerings of the college. Librarians work closely with faculty and staff to address specific needs programs have to serve their students and meet accrediting criteria.

The libraries strive to maintain a well balanced and current collection of all materials. Nursing and health information is currency sensitive and the NCTC librarians recognize the need to provide up-to-date, valid information for nursing and allied health programs. Collection development practice in these subject areas results in a current collection (materials generally no older than five years), thus providing the NCTC community with information and resources reflecting current data, philosophies, and best practices in the field.

The NCTC library collection (Thief River Falls and East Grand Forks combined) contains approximately 38,000 titles. A clear majority of these titles are print monographs (70%). Users also have access to 8,000+ electronic book titles through a subscription to NetLibrary E-Books (accessible 24 hours a day.) The balance of the collection is comprised of audio and video titles (5% of the collection) and approximately 175 print periodical titles, many of which are peer-reviewed journals. The East Grand Forks campus library will open in remodeled and enlarged facilities in Fall 2009. Collection development in the health subject areas will be a priority when materials are purchased for the expanding collection.

In addition to the traditional collection of library materials, the NCTC community has access to a variety of subscription databases. These databases offer 24/7 remote access and include full text content of thousands of magazines and journals, entries from reference materials, newspapers articles, and image files. Databases specifically appropriate to the AD program are CINAHL Plus with Full Text on the EBSCOHost platform, ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source, Facts on File Health Reference Center, and Facts on File Science Online. Other multi-disciplinary databases in our collection (Academic Search Premier, in particular) do contain a quality set of peer-reviewed health/medical journals. Medline Plus is linked from the library database menu for easy user access. Through multiple consortia memberships, library patrons have access to approximately ten million bibliographic records.

Records for library materials are accessed through an online library catalog. The NCTC library is part of a statewide consortium, allowing users to search catalogs of dozens of libraries simultaneously. The library provides access to virtually any published work through the Interlibrary Loan program. Materials not owned locally can usually be borrowed from other libraries and loaned to NCTC users.
Each library is staffed by a full time, professional librarian and a .75FTE library assistant. With advanced notice, the librarians are available for course/program specific instruction sessions throughout the year. Library staff are dedicated to providing their users with the skills and knowledge needed to use information resources effectively. Instruction is also provided on critical evaluation of internet sites and resources.

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