

EXCERPT FROM BOOK IN PROGRESS ON NURSING INFORMATICS

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It is imperative that nurses become competent users of ICT in all aspects of health care, not just because it is the wave of the future or is demanded by the modern quality-focused organizations that they work within. Nurses have a very unique view of health and knowledge of clients and their needs – this view is critical for the success of primary health care and the empowerment of clients seeking ways to boost their self-care abilities. Once nurses become comfortable with various technologies, they can shape them, refine them, and apply them in new and different ways – just as they have always adapted earlier equipment and technologies. "Registered nurses need to be able to demonstrate their unique contribution to the health of Canadians within Canada's rapidly evolving health care system. Basic, essential nursing information is required by nurses, employers, researchers, educators, policy makers, and clients so that informed decisions can be made about nursing's role in the changing health care system" (Canadian Nurses' Association, 1993a, p. 1).

SELF-EXPLORATION ACTIVITY

Envision yourself as the professional you are, on the road to discovering the keys to endless information that you can actively apply to your nursing education and practice, and to your personal life. Also, see yourself as a creative artist, learning to master a wonderful medium to express your voice, your creativity, and your brilliance through text, images and organized data.

Using a computer program of your choice, create a document outlining your personal learning plan for developing computer literacy and technical ICT competencies. Include your personal preferences for learning in your outlined strategies.

Use whatever medium suits you best. You may prefer using text or graphics, to create a concept map, a table, a graph, or a database to organize your plan.