The Learner’s Perspective of WebQuests as a Teaching/Learning Strategy in Nursing Education

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Background

Created by Dr. Bernie Dodge (1995) and colleague Tom March

Used extensively in K-12 education around the world

Used in Higher Education, but less commonly in Nursing Education

New to Nursing Education as a teaching/learning strategy

What is a WebQuest?

- An instructional webpage that uses an online active learning strategy
- Uses links and instructional design
- Constructivism
- Learners search for meaning/ideas
- Building New Knowledge
- (Dodge, 1995; Lahaie, 2008)
- Used to stimulate higher order thinking

Components of a WebQuest:

- Uses of WebQuests
  - staff development
  - continuing education
  - and/or academic education

Evidence Review

Gulbahar, Madran and Kalelioglu (2010) reported that the students found the WebQuest favorable to use and was a positive learning experience.

Another study reported the WebQuest as a stimulating activity and the participants would recommend WebQuests to other learners (Hassanien, 2006).

Nursing students reported WebQuests as a helpful learning strategy for developing skills in using library databases (Burchum et al., 2007).

A Gap in the Nursing Education Research exists.

Research Questions

Research Questions

- What are the strengths of using a WebQuest for learning from the learner point of view?
- What are instructional successes and areas for improvement with using the WebQuest from the learner point of view?
- What are factors related to including the family nursing content in WebQuests from the learner point of view?

Constructs

- The Active Learning Paradigm
- The Facilitation Paradigm
- The Family Nursing Paradigm

Research Methods and Measures

- Mixed methods
- Convenience sample of 28 nursing students
- Survey: WebQuest Survey for Learners
- Reliability .93 (Active Learning), .96 (Facilitation), .95 (Family Nursing)
- Quantitative statements with a 5 point Likert type scale (5 = strongly agree, 1 = strongly disagree) & Qualitative Questions
- IRB Approval was obtained

Demographics

- N =28 undergraduate nursing students
- Female 26 (93%)
- Male 2 (7%)
- Average age 27 years
- Range of ages: 19-48
- Previous WebQuest Use: 21%
- First Time WebQuester: 79%

Active Learning Paradigm

- Teacher Facilitation
- Thought of New Ideas
- Used Analytical Skills
- Discovered something new

Facilitation Paradigm

- Learns at Own Pace
- Critical Thinking
- Well Organized
- Reflective Thinking

Family Nursing Paradigm

- Family Nursing Integration
- Promoted Family Interaction
- Incorporated Family Nursing Interventions

Results

Qualitative Data

- “Easy to follow, info was provided in different forms, able to take as much time as needed to get through the material”
- “They offered a lot of information and resources.”
- “The Webquest helped me to organize and sort my thoughts on my plan to work with my family.”
- “Make them shorter”

Conclusion

WebQuests were received favorably by undergraduate nursing students when used for Family Nursing Content

Areas for improvement identified

Further study recommended

References


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