Challenge
To try to meet the demand for information skills training while remaining cost effective and making best use of staff time.

Solution
An e-learning package backed up with drop-in sessions.

Background
- History of large number of hours of teaching delivery to the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.
- Intake of more than 300 BSc Nursing and Midwifery students every year, in two cohorts.
- Expansion of post-registration courses.
- In total, around 1000 nursing and midwifery students studying at any one time.
- Students expected to use the Library to find books and journal articles for their assignments right from the very start of their course.
- Students have often been out of education for some time and are unfamiliar with online resources.

Development of the material
- Originally developed for pharmacy who have a similar intake of students.
- Adapted from the pharmacy material with the substitution of appropriate examples from nursing and midwifery to produce generic material suitable for these programmes.
- Material tailored further for individual programmes.

Benefits
- Students can work through material at their own pace.
- Students already familiar with Blackboard.
- Material available continuously to students throughout their course.
- Results of pharmacy library module exams show improvement since the launch of the e-learning material.
- Positive anecdotal feedback from students and academic staff.

Pitfalls
- Difficulty of importing materials into Blackboard. Formatting is often lost.
- Balancing the need to break the text up into manageable chunks against making the module easy for students to navigate.
- Time taken to find suitable examples in order to demonstrate how to search the catalogue, databases etc.
- NHS firewalls causing accessibility problems for some students using Blackboard.
- Running out of time for proofreading and testing a walk-through of the package.

Information skills for nursing students: development of an e-learning package
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An exploration of the practicalities and pitfalls of designing an information skills e-learning package for new Nursing and Midwifery students.