

The Internet for Nurses and Allied Health Professionals

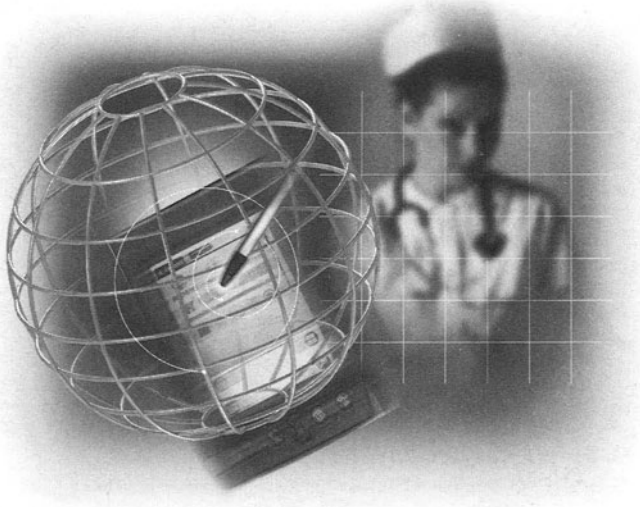
Third Edition

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THE
INTERNET
FOR
NURSES
AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

THIRD EDITION

with 29 Illustrations



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Preface

The INTERNET. Everyone is talking about it. The newspapers report new applications daily. Even the kids at school are connected! But does the Internet offer anything beyond endless shopping at cybermalls, a plethora of computer games or a worldwide club for computer nerds? Is there anything out there for nurses and allied health professionals? YES, there is! That's what this book is all about.

This book is designed as a primer to the Internet for nurses and allied health professionals who have little or no computer experience. In plain language we will describe the Internet and how it works. We'll outline the ways in which the Internet can be a valuable partner in your practice. Information about using various Internet tools will be given. Finally, we've done some of the searching for you and will provide a catalogue of Internet resources that we found, with access directions and a brief summary of each resource. We have not attempted to make this catalogue a massive "yellow pages" directory to all health-related sites. Rather, we have identified key sites related to each topic. Sites included are good starting places for searches and generally include links to other Internet resources.

If, in addition to being a health professional, you are a "techie," who is already well-grounded in the fundamentals of the Internet, you will probably find the chapters to be mostly review. However, you'll find the compilation of health-related resources in the catalogue to be valuable.

Health care is changing daily. Nurses and allied health professionals are scrambling to keep up with an ever-changing "healthscape". Traditional methods of formally communicating with peers through conferences, journals and books are not able to provide the answers that health care providers require in a timely manner. When you need to know now how others have dealt with a proposed health care change, you can't wait three months for the next conference or nine months for the book to come out. This is where you discover the real power of the Internet. Your ability to immediately ask questions or exchange ideas with peers around the world gives you the knowledge edge you need to keep your nursing or health care practice professional and progressive.

The INTERNET... How did we ever manage without it!

Contents

Preface	v
Acknowledgments	xi
Part I Introduction	1
Chapter 1 Internet Basics.....	3
What is the Internet?.....	3
Who Owns and Operates the Internet?.....	3
What Does the Internet Look Like?.....	5
Where Did the Internet Come From?.....	6
What Is the World Wide Web?.....	8
History of the Web.....	8
Hypertext.....	9
How Do I Get There from Here?.....	11
Chapter 2 Getting Connected.....	13
Connecting to the Internet.....	13
Types of Internet Connections.....	13
Direct Connection to the Internet.....	13
Connecting Through Another’s Gateway.....	13
Connecting Through a Commercial Service Provider.....	14
<i>Ways to Connect to Your Commercial Service Provider</i>	14
What to Look for When Choosing an Internet Provider.....	16
Security Issues.....	17
Hacking or Cracking—Direct Attack.....	17
Viruses—Indirect Attack.....	18
Now that You’re Connected and Protected.....	18
E-mail Addresses.....	18
URLs.....	20
Final Thoughts.....	20
Chapter 3 Web Browsers—The View from the Screen.....	21
Web Browsers.....	21
Using Web Browsers.....	22

Bookmarks	22
Plug-Ins	23
Cookies.....	23
Final Thoughts	23
Part II Internet-Based Communication	25
Chapter 4 Using Electronic Mail (E-mail and Mailing Lists)	27
Anatomy of an E-mail Message	28
Legal Issues.....	29
E-mail Etiquette	30
Mailing Lists	32
Subscribing, Unsubscribing, and Mailing to Mailing Lists	33
Finding a Mail List	34
Mailing List Etiquette.....	34
Chapter 5 Newsgroups	37
What Is Usenet?	37
Components of a Usenet Article	38
Joining a Newsgroup	39
Reading Articles	39
Posting Articles.....	40
Final Thoughts	40
Chapter 6 Internet Chat	41
Chat Rooms.....	41
Safe Chatting.....	42
Part III Internet-Based Information Access.....	45
Chapter 7 Search Engines and Beyond	47
Web Indexes.....	47
Web Directories	48
Other Types of Search Engines.....	48
Choosing a Search Engine.....	48
Final Thoughts	51
Chapter 8 Search Strategies and Techniques	52
Search Terms	52
Advanced Searching	54
Final Thoughts	57
Chapter 9 Using and Citing Information from the Internet	59
Using Information from the Internet.....	59
Health Summit Working Group Evaluation Criteria.....	59
Health On the Net (HON) Code of Conduct	60
Citing Information from the Internet	62

Chapter 10 The Future Is Now	63
Health Services Over the Internet	63
E-Commerce	64
On-line Professional Education.....	64
E-books	65
Conclusion	65
Appendix 1 Under the Hood	67
The Gopher	67
Gopher Searching	69
Veronica and Jughead Searching	69
Wais.....	70
Appendix 2 Health-Related Internet Resources.....	71
Profession Specific	71
Health-Related Topics	77
Online Journals	126
Searchable Health-Related Literature Databases	129
Glossary.....	131
Index	135

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M.J.A.E.