This is a Brief Online Learning Tutorial (or BOLT) brought to you by the LISTEN project, a HRSA funded project focusing on improving the information literacy competencies of nursing students and professional nurses.
You often need to locate information that may not be found online. Often materials you need are in the form of a hard copy. You may have to visit your library. But how do you begin to search for things in the library?
When you are in a library and trying to find either books, journals, dissertations, or other types of materials physically housed in the library, have you ever got lost and wondered where to start? Each library has its organization scheme that helps patrons to find needed materials. Getting to know how a library organizes its materials is the key for finding the materials you need in the library. Almost every library has an online catalog which contains all the materials in that library. Normally, a library online catalog provides you the bibliographic data such as author, title, publisher, publication year, call number if it is a book, and so on. The online catalog also contains library holding information such as location and status that helps you determine whether the item is available to check out.
Books are organized by classification scheme. For example, most medical libraries use the National Library of Medicine (or NLM) Classification to catalog library materials. NLM Classification utilizes schedules QS-QZ and W-WZ for different medicine and life science related subjects. The schedules with their special requirements for use with all types and forms of materials preclude strict adherence to the hierarchical arrangement of the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), the Library's thesaurus for indexing and cataloging. These letters represent different subject areas. For example, nursing books are assigned under WY.
Within the WY Nursing schedule, there are specific areas representing by a range of numbers. Each book is assigned a call number. The call number will help you locate the book in the library.

Understanding call numbers

WY 1-49 Reference Works  
WY 77-87 Economics, Ethics, Philosophy, Psychological Aspects  
WY 90-100 S Referral, Nursing Care, Assessment and Audit  
WY 101-145 Special Fields in Nursing  
WY 150-170 Nursing Techniques in Special Fields of Medicine  
WY 191-200 Other Services  
WY 300 By Country

WY 157.3 K66i 2006

WY-- Nursing  
157.3-- Maternal-child nursing. Neonatal nursing. Perinatal nursing  
K -- 1st letter of the author's last name  
66 -- A number assigned to the author with the last name Klossner  
i -- 1st letter of the book title word  
2006 -- Year of publication
The call number can be found by searching the library’s online catalog. With the call number, you will be able to find the book. You will also find other books grouped under WY 157.3 related to Maternal-child nursing, Neonatal nursing, and Perinatal nursing.
In a medical library, journals or periodicals are arranged by A-Z journal titles.
The most efficient way to locate hard copy and print resources in a library is to ask a librarian for help.
Continue to visit the LISTEN website, at listenuphealth.org, for more helpful tips on using technology and seeking, evaluating, and applying information in nursing to support evidence-based nursing practice.
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