Librarians Bridge the Educational Technology Gap
Assisting Nursing Faculty

Jeanne Le Ber, Education Services and Alice Weber, Coordinator of Educational Technologies
Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library, University of Utah---MCMLA September 19-20, 2005

Foundation: Define the Need

The College of Nursing made the decision that every course should have a Web presence.

University of Utah has a site license to WebCT – a web-based course management tool.

Faculty are comfortable with their course content, but are not necessarily experienced with the technology.

The time it would take to become proficient with the technology was a concern for the nursing faculty.

Librarians help bridge the gap by providing WebCT instruction.

Structure: Tools and Support

The librarians needed to become familiar with how to design a class in WebCT.

To do this, librarians created a class in WebCT that also functions as a tutorial for how to build a class in WebCT.

Librarians used this tutorial to then teach faculty and provide them with hands-on experience using the tools needed to create their own courses.

In addition to 2-hour classes, librarians were available for one-on-one consultations in faculty offices.

Librarians continue to meet with faculty for ongoing course management issues.

The Bridge: Connected

150+ College of Nursing classes have an online presence; an increase of 80%.

Faculty have confidence in using course management technology.

This bridge we have built is sustaining opportunities to utilize other technologies for teaching. For example:

Library and nursing faculty applied for and received a grant for using PDAs in teaching.

Faculty are exploring the use of Breeze Live, Skype, and video-streaming to reach distance students.