

## Use of Information Technology by Nurse Theorists (M. Sandelowski)

### OVERVIEW

Nursing and technology have been inexorably linked since the beginnings of trained nursing in the United States in the late nineteenth century. Whether or not they thought of the devices they used as technology, nurses have necessarily used a variety of tools, instruments, and machines--from thermometers to cardiac monitors--to appraise, treat, and comfort patients. Tracing the relationship between nursing and technology from the 1870s to the present, Margarete Sandelowski argued that technology has helped to shape and intensify persistent dilemmas in nursing and that it has both advanced and impeded the development of the profession.



In her book [Devices and Desires: Gender, Technology, and American Nursing](#) Sandelowski examined key moments in the history of nursing that dramatize the ironies of the nursing-technology relationship. She demonstrated that nurses both embraced and rejected technology in their pursuit of cultural visibility and professional autonomy--with varying amounts of success.

Technology is not only used by nurses in practice or education, but by nurse theorists themselves. "With global travel, telecommunications, information technology, and the Internet, the boundaries of space, time, geography, and language have greatly diminished the barriers that nurse theorists faced in the twentieth century. Today, because of current technology, it is possible for almost any student to ask a major theorist a question about a theory and receive an answer without ever leaving his or her living room. Nurses who have an interest in nursing theory now have the opportunity to connect with colleagues internationally with similar interests that they would otherwise have never met and learn from participation in online communities." (Sitzman. & Wright Eichelberger, 2011, p. 209 - 210).

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

This learning activity is intended to provide the learner with the opportunity to:

- Recognize how advances in technology have removed dissemination and networking boundaries between theorists and nurses.
- Outline the historical interwoven relationship between nursing and technology.
- Analyze Sandelowski's contribution to the understanding of how technology has impacted nursing over the years

## PREPARATION

### READ: Part VI CONCLUSION

Chapter 29 Use of Information Technology among Nursing Theorists

Chapter 30 Pioneering Nursing Theory on the World Wide Web

in Sitzman, K. & Wright Eichelberger, L. (2017). *Understanding the Work of Nursing Theorists: A Creative Beginning*. Jones & Bartlett. 3rd edition



**READ:** Kaminski, J. (2006). Artifact section of *A revealing of nursing informatics: Exploring the field*. <https://www.nursing-informatics.com/revealing/artifact.html>

## ONLINE ACTIVITIES

### Chapters 29 & 30 Quiz

Complete the Quiz on Chapter 29 and 30 to in the Moodle workspace for this week (5 questions)



Chapter 29 Use of Information Technology among Nursing Theorists

Chapter 30 Pioneering Nursing Theory on the World Wide Web

### Nursing and Technology Database

Create a visual representation of Margarete Sandelowski's description of how nurses and technology have been intricately linked since the beginning of hospital care, and how this linkage has both supported and downplayed the evolution of the nursing profession. Upload your work as an image file to this week's Database and your PebblePad ePortfolio course page.



## REFLECTION

What considerations do the readings promote as you focus on the use of technology in nursing?

How has technology promoted the development and dissemination of nursing theory?

## REFERENCES

Kaminski, J. (2006). Artifact section of *A revealing of nursing informatics: Exploring the field*.  
<https://www.nursing-informatics.com/revealing/artifact.html>

Sandelowski, M. (2000). *Devices & desires: gender, technology, and American nursing*.  
University of North Carolina Press.

Sitzman, K. & Wright Eichelberger, L. (2011). *Understanding the Work of Nursing Theorists: A Creative Beginning*. Jones & Bartlett. 2nd edition

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