WEBWISE
If a picture tells a thousand words, then animations must surely speak volumes, and this is the case with the University of Pennsylvania Health System’s Medical Animation Library website.

The benefits of animation over fixed images cannot be over-estimated, particularly when attempting to understand complex physiological events such as the cardiac cycle.

We struggle all too often with the interpretation of fixed images, forgetting that biological events are composed of many concurrent biochemical and physiological processes. Animation provides a useful overview of these events and can emphasise the fact that they do not take place in isolation.

The animations here are grouped alphabetically and include blood clotting, heart bypass surgery, sexual differentiation and the sun’s effect on the skin. All the major body systems are visited, as are the major disease processes and physiological concepts.

The accompanying text describes each of the animations with a level of detail that should appeal to students and qualified professionals. Each subject area is served by useful weblinks to articles and research.

The site is definitely worth a visit, but be warned. It is, by its own admission, bandwidth intensive and requires the installation of numerous plugins to obtain the best results.

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The Medical Animation Library website is www.pennhealth.com/health_info/animationplayer

Competencies for Advanced Nursing Practice

The struggle for acceptance of advanced nursing practice in the profession has been mired in controversy. Uniquely, this text offers a highly informative, accessible and fresh approach by focusing on nationally and internationally approved competencies for advanced nursing practice.

The book is framed around the seven domains of advanced nursing practice that the Nursing and Midwifery Council endorses as a means of enabling individuals to assess, diagnose, treat and refer patients. The coverage is in-depth. The chapters on legal and regulatory issues and on respecting culture and diversity are particularly interesting.

There is also clear guidance on how to collect and record evidence to assist practitioners seeking advanced practice accreditation. I recommend this text to those aspiring to become advanced nurse or midwife practitioners. Those who have reached this level of practice, and academics delivering programmes in this area, will also find it an immensely valuable resource.

Reviewed by John Albarran, reader in critical care nursing, programme leader for the MSc in advanced practice, University of the West of England, Bristol

Nursing and Working with Other People

One of four books in the Transforming Nursing Practice series, this text helps nursing students achieve the proficiency standards set out by the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

The recurring theme is that there are many players in healthcare delivery, some working front of house and others behind the scenes. Together, their different backgrounds influence the quality of provision. However, while emphasising the importance of information sharing across professional boundaries, this book highlights the need to work with the service user.

It explores the history and context of healthcare policy and examines the relationship between doctors and nurses, with special emphasis on how this affects communication and decision-making. I was impressed with the research-based theories on which the discussions are based. Interprofessional learning is examined, as well as teamwork and multi-agency working. Readers can reflect on the social and emotional intelligence they bring to work.

Questions raised generate critical thought and personal reflection. Each chapter ends with a summary, outline answers and a knowledge review.

I recommend this book for assessing practice and for team-building exercises.

Reviewed by Thelma Gage, enhanced modern matron for health visiting and school nursing, City and Hackney Primary Care Trust, London