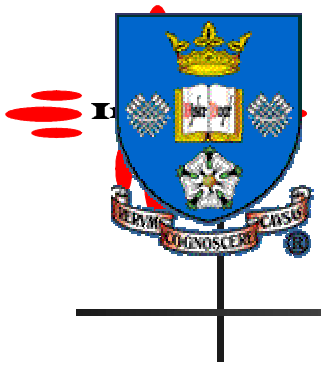
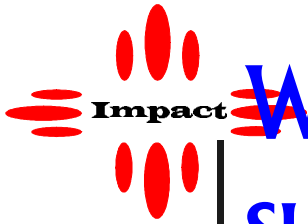


DH Department of Health

Impact

www.impact.shef.ac.uk

STH
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals



Workplace access to the Internet: supporting evidence-based practice

- Project manager and lead researcher: Joy Harrison, University of Sheffield
- Clinical lead partner and research support: Angela Tod, Northern General Hospital
- Technical expert and research assistant: Richard Black, University of Sheffield
- Research assistant: Sara Morris-Docker
- Research assistant: Daniel Wolstenholme

Background

- Rationale
  - Policy
  - Professional
  - R&D

- Assumptions
  - Improving access will increase use
  - Increased use will improve skills and confidence
  - Internet access on the ward will promote search of clinically related research
  - Internet can be used in down time
  - Misuse is inevitable

Aims and Objectives

- Aim: To evaluate the use of ward based access to the Internet on the practice of nurses and AHPs

- Objectives:
- Monitor use of Internet and access of research
- Investigate use of research in practice
- Investigate attitudes and views regarding the Internet

Design and Methods

- Design: before and after controlled trial
- Methods: qualitative and quantitative
- Setting and sample: Nurses (183-208) and AHPs (15) in Cardiology (intervention) and Renal (control) units at NGH
- Intervention: unrestricted Internet access on dedicated ward based computers (4 wards) plus a portal for swift access to SEEK (2 wards)

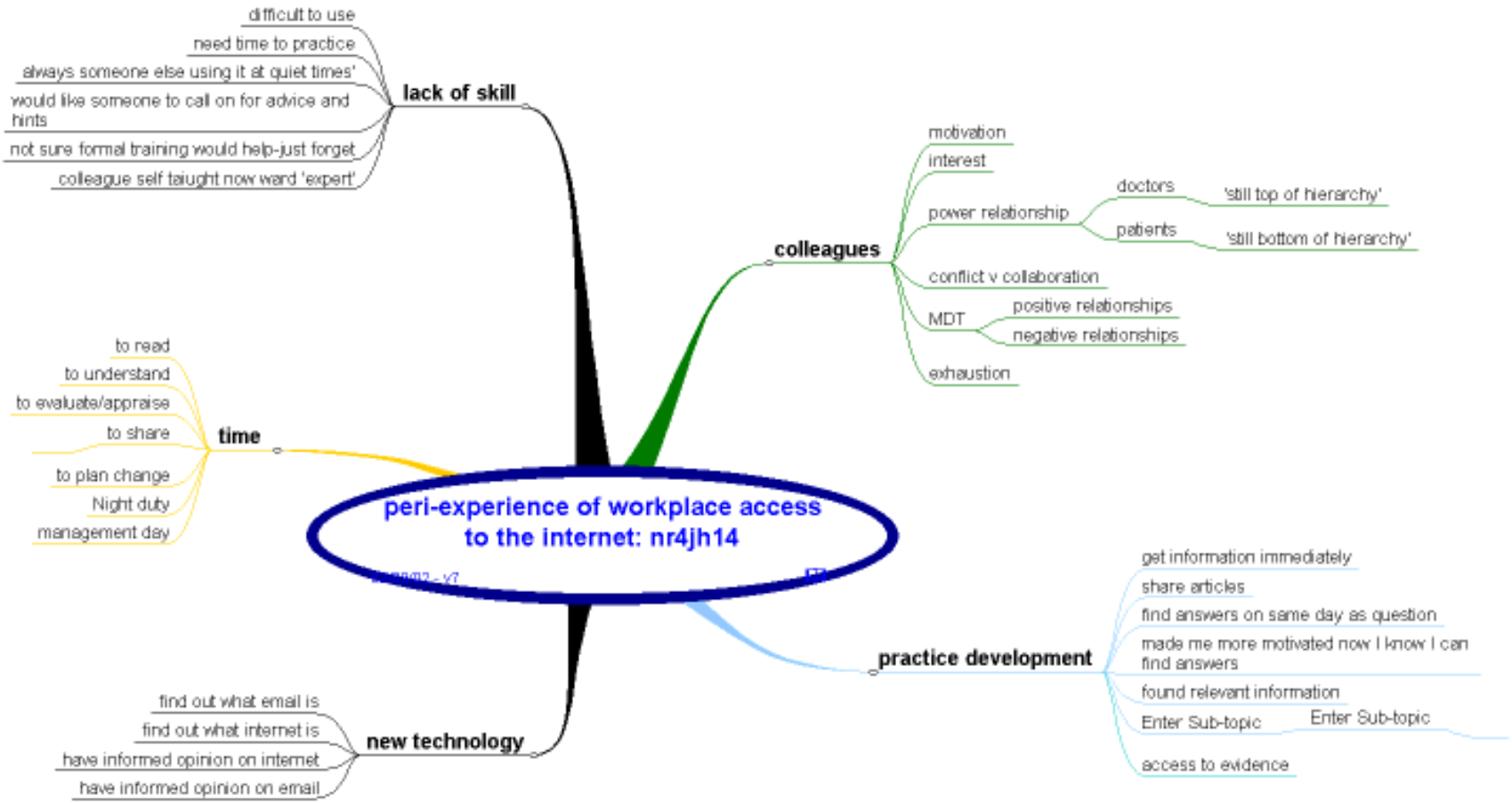
Questionnaire Dimensions

- Factors encouraging and discouraging use
- Attitudes to the internet
- Access and use of internet and email
- Training requirements
- Professional journals
- Attempts to change practice

Monitoring Data

[09/30/2001 | 15:32:32] [02:59] Microsoft Internet Explorer
(Path: c:\program files\internet explorer\iexplore.exe)
+ Link: http://www.shef.ac.uk/
Time Stamp:>>>[09/30/2001 | 15:32:51] <<<
+ Link: http://www.ask.co.uk/
Hickman lines
+ Link:
http://www.ask.co.uk/reply.asp?ask=Hickman+lines&origin=0&qSource=11
Time Stamp:>>>[09/30/2001 | 15:33:55] <<<
+ Link:
http://www.ask.co.uk/metasearch.asp?enginelink=33%2C98%2C1%2CCentral+Venous+Catheters+or+LinesAJhttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.altavista.com%2Fr%3Fck_sm%3Dff6e1772%26ref%3D401012d%26r%3Dhttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.link.med.ed.ac.uk%2FRIDU%2F%2FCvc.htmAJ5&metaengine=Altavista&logqid=0533B932CABAE84290BB410AB63671B3&adservercode=&qcategory=&qsource=11&frames=yes&engineordinal=2&site_name=ukkb&origin=0&ask=**Hickman**%2B**lines**&scope=web&r=&Ask.x=21&Ask.y=12

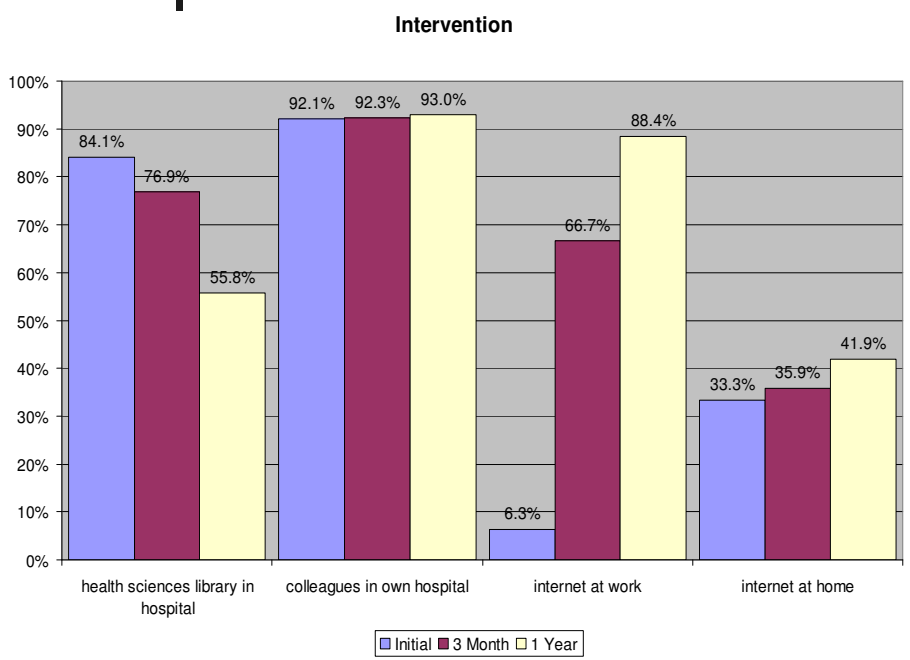
Interview Data

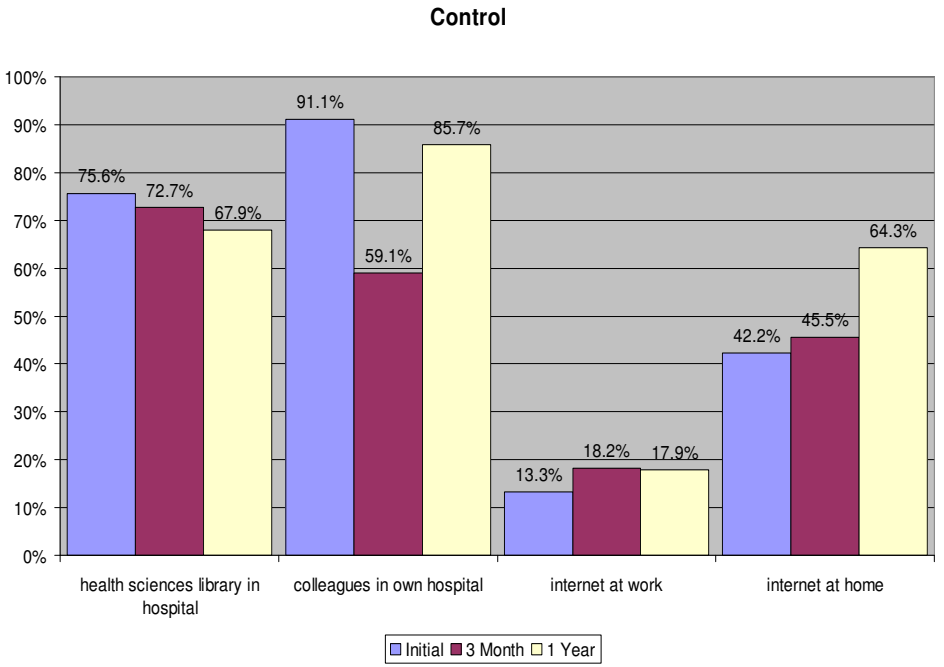


Participation and response rate

Data Collection Method	Sample	Data Collection Period(s)	Response / Participation	
Questionnaire	All qualified nurses (n=183-208) and allied health professions (n=15) in the Intervention and Control area		Intervention	Control
		Baseline 3 months 12 months	63 (68.5%) 39 (41.1%) 43 (44.8%)	43 (37.4%) 22 (19.5%) 28 (24.8%)
Interviews	Purposive sample from Intervention and Control area of 16, comprising: 12 registered nurses 2 physiotherapists 1 radiographer 1 occupational therapist	Baseline 3 months 12 months	16 16 16	
Monitoring	All qualified nurses (n=88)and allied health professionals (n=7) in the Intervention area	Continuous for the intervention period	Nurses = 73 users AHPs = 3 users	

Access to information for practice





Library internet access and use

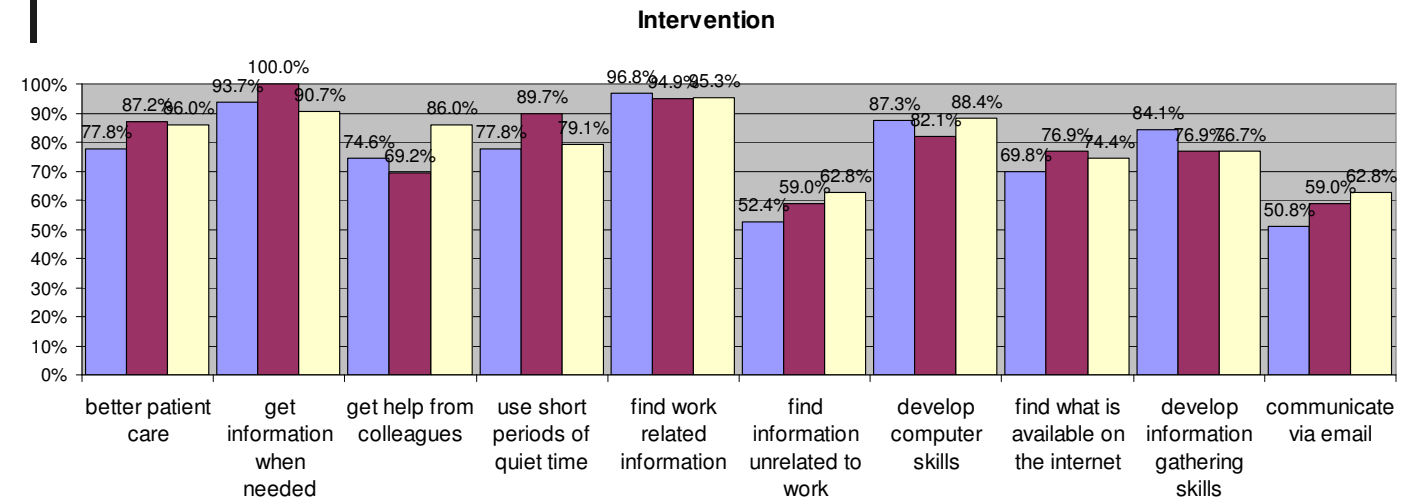
	Access	Use
Intervention:		
Baseline	8 (13%)	1 (2%)
3 Month	3 (8%)	0
6 Month	8 (19%)	1 (2%)
Control:		
Baseline	4 (9%)	1 (2%)
3 Month	4 (18%)	1 (5%)
6 Month	6 (21%)	1 (4%)

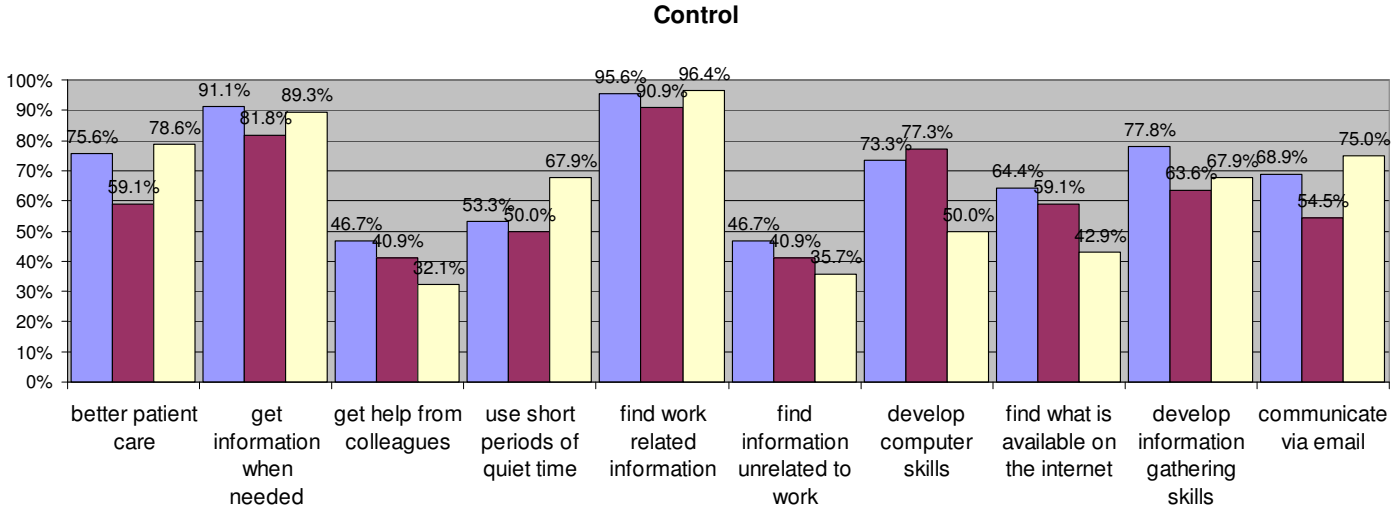
Library use

- *"I don't feel awkward about being useless with computers, its not my thing, but I'm more likely to get round it if people I know are around, and we are all in the same boat here, not like in the library where people breath down your neck and look annoyed if you look like you don't know what you're doing".*

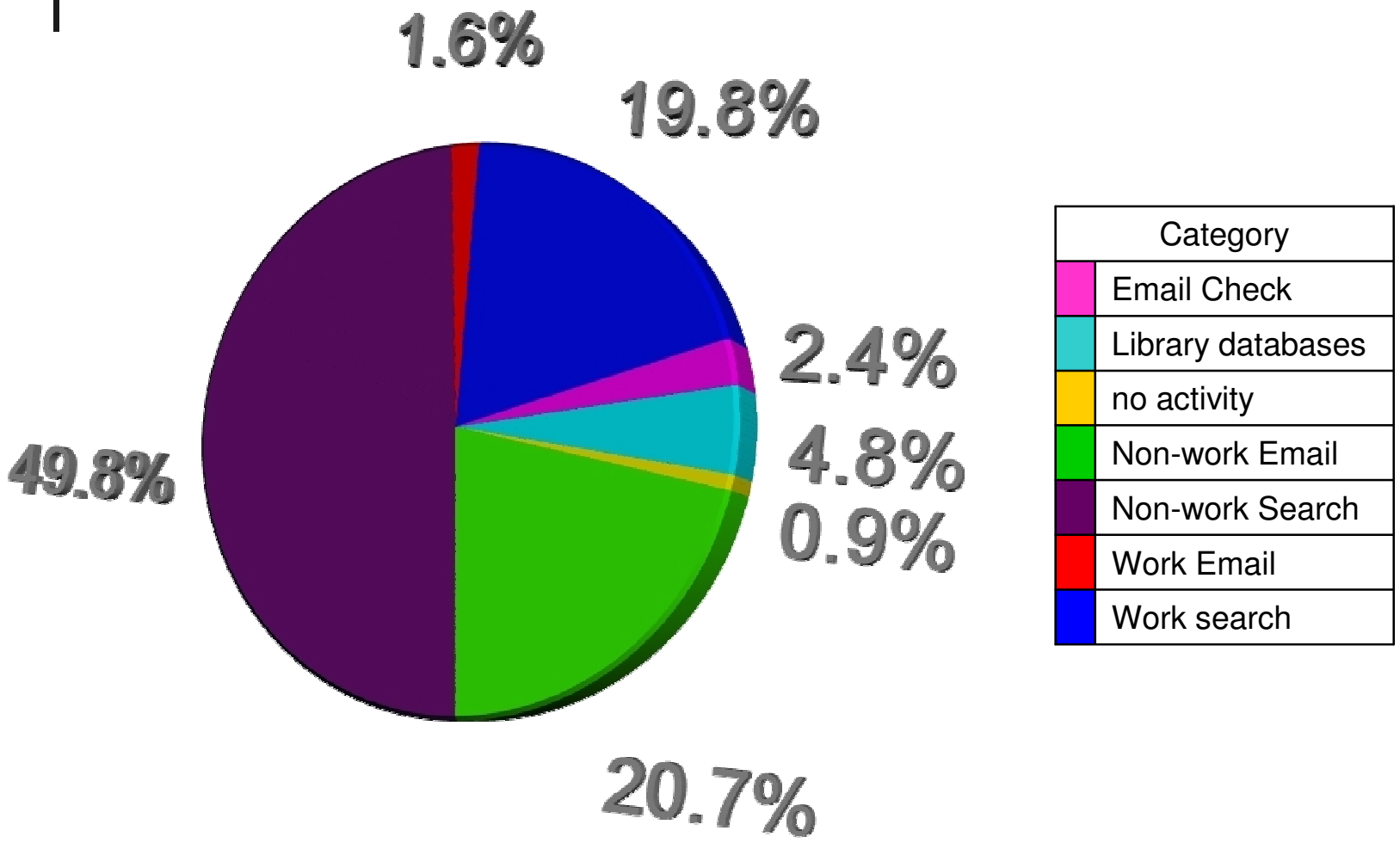
- *"The old library felt like it was ours, part of the hospital, it now feels like part of the University".*

Encouragement Factors



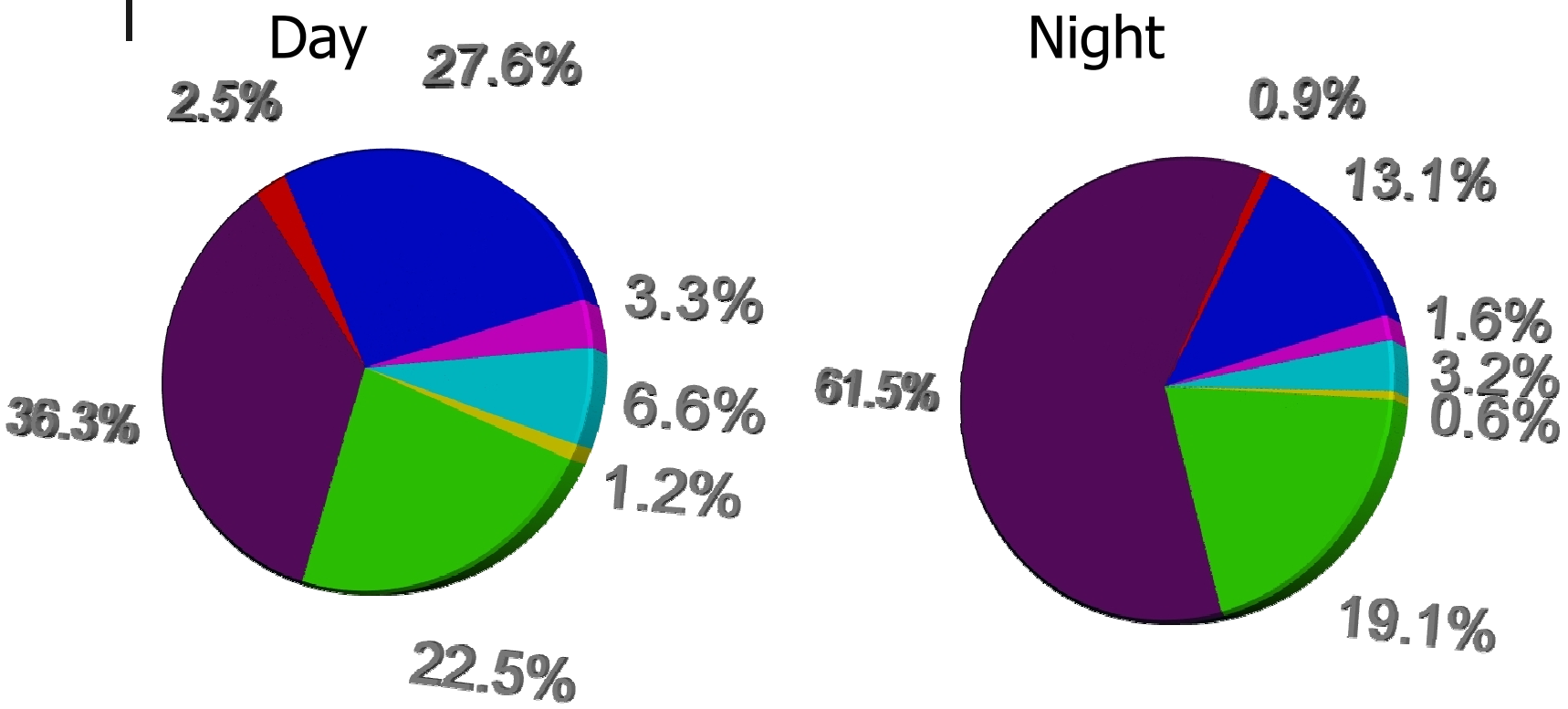


Internet activity by Category



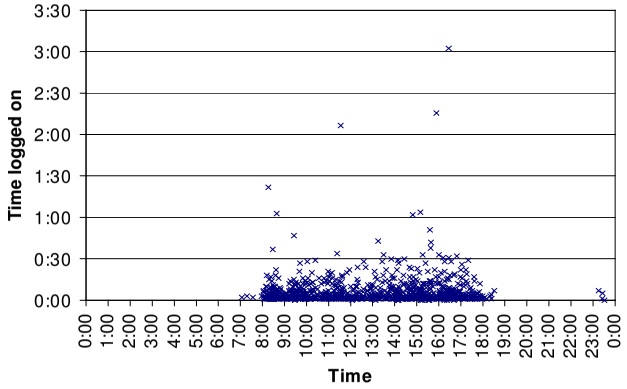
Number of episodes and their duration

Internet categories night and day

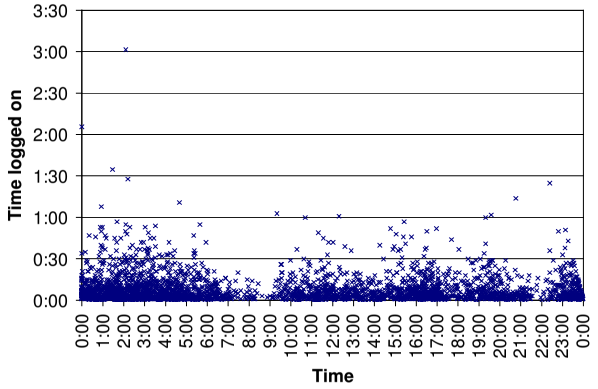


Internet activity night and day

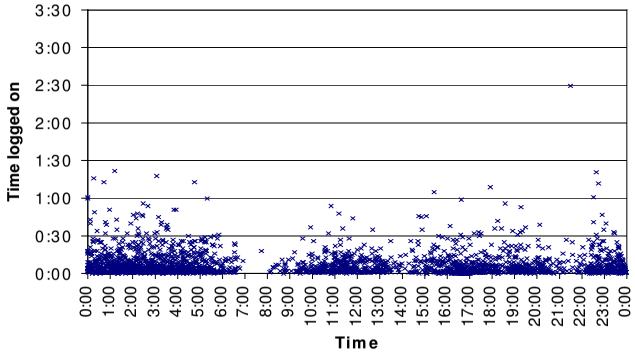
Ward A



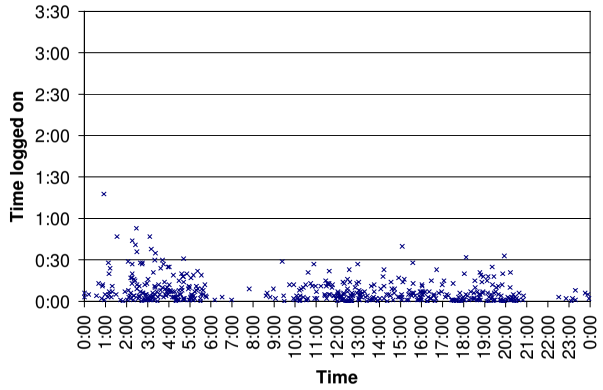
Ward B



Ward C



Ward D



Changing Practice

	Tried to change practice	Succeeded in changing practice
Intervention:		
Baseline	17 (27.0%)	10 (15.9%)
3 Month	9 (23.1%)	2 (5.1%)
6 Month	14 (32.6%)	7 (16.3%)
Control:		
Baseline	11 (24.4%)	6 (13.3%)
3 Month	11 (50.0%)	3 (13.6%)
6 Month	12 (42.9%)	5 (17.9%)

- *"If we were in the library doing this we wouldn't think of sharing it with others, we'd just print it and take it home".*
- *"We shared the information with some doctors and a physiotherapist on the ward at the time, and decided to put together a patient information sheet".*

Factors influencing internet use

- Skills
  - *"I find Google really easy to use so I look for something, not work, then while I'm there have a quick look for something to do with work".*
- Ward culture
  - *"The ward sister thinks the Internet will be a waste of time so I think the rest of the staff will go along with her"*
- Nature of information
  - *"Somehow I don't see how all these so called models or theories of nursing are going to help… that's one thing I've learnt in this project, don't go to nursing databases go to Medline or Google".*

Discussion

- Increased access and use at work
- Use of short periods of quiet time
- Positive attitudes
- Enthusiasts
- Skills
- Culture
- Misuse

Key messages for the future

- Time and support
- Training requirements
- Investing in enthusiasts
- Partnerships between libraries and NHS
- “Push” technologies
- Nursing research