NIRS Overview
What is NIRS and what does it do?
It is an online database that gives feds a clue

About how we work to make the world great
Helping to make communities first rate
I know that the name may sound kinda funny
But the database NIRS, it equals money

All UCEDDs & LENDs use it and it’s run by AUCD
The data is shared with funders in Washington DC
All the letters in NIRS stand for something, it’s true
I wonder if everyone knows each letter too?

N is for National, I is for Information
The R is Reporting, S is for System
How do you say it, some people have asked?
NIRS rhymes with ears it was decided long past

And there’s one more thing, we can all rest assured
That the data in NIRS is always secured
NIRS now looks different, trust me it’s better
It’s like dressing a cow in a fancy new sweater

It’s a bit more intuitive from my memory
Finally catching up with the 21st century
NIRS has 5 datasets where we enter all our efforts. Those who know them all are certainly the experts.

Trainees are academic fellows or students. Your training program teaches to be disability-prudent.
PROJECTS are exactly what you think they would be. They’re the big efforts usually from a funding entity.

Reporting on ACTIVITIES is perhaps the most crucial. It measures our impact and how we’re so useful.
PRODUCTS is another not to ignore
It reports what you create, materials galore!

The DIRECTORY is fifth and not to be forgotten
Not updating this would certainly be rotten
It tells people who we are and our expertise
So, when you can, update your profile please

Pay close attention to one item of great utility
It asks about your relationship to disability
Not all you do should be put into NIRS
Don’t worry, there’s guidance to settle your fears

The **AUCD website** has lots of great stuff
To help you out when the going gets rough
There is a team to help make things alright
When a question pops up or you get lost on the site

There are staff here who can each help you out
And Natalie at AUCD can give a bailout
Please enter your data often and early
So reporting next June doesn’t get too squirrely

We can’t overstate how important this all is
It’s how we get paid, keep jobs, stay in biz
More importantly, even, is how data is used

To find experts and efforts to guide the confused

Your data in NIRS helps ease the confusion

And informs policymakers how to support inclusion
Thank you for your attention and for your time
And letting us present this all in a rhyme

Now is your chance to ask a question or two
Otherwise we’ll end because we’re all through!
Thanks to the team in New Hampshire, you see
The original poem came from the Institute on Disability

The images are awesome, surely you agree
And they come from the coolest gal InkyBrittany

InkyBrittany.com