

LIBRARIES for NURSING Bulletin

 *Libraries for*
NURSING
Promoting Informed Nursing Care

UNIVERSITY OF KALIFORNIA
LIBRARY
V.17, no.2/3, Summer/Autumn 1997



LfN

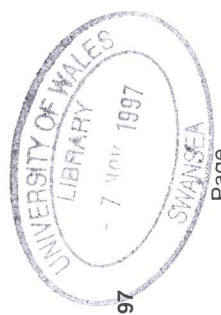
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LŴN BULLETIN

Vol.17, No.2/3, Summer/Autumn 1997



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SUBSCRIPTIONS

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EDITORIAL

The first thing we must do is apologise for the delay in the publication of this issue of the *Bulletin*, which, as you can see, we have now made into a double issue. One problem of maintaining a schedule is having enough material to publish. Your contributions will always be gratefully received.

As most of you may know, Tony Shepherd has left the nursing sector for fresh challenges. He was a keen advocate for library provision for nurses and was instrumental in setting up a project on qualified nurses' access to libraries and the need for more provision. We have in this issue both a 'Farewell' from Tony to L/N and a 'Thankyou for all you've done' from L/N to Tony. The *Bulletin* is looking forward to publishing an article on the wit and wisdom of an ex-RCN librarian.

Tony's departure and Pam Bailey's decision to retire from the post of Secretary, after 5 years sterling work, have led to some changes in the composition of the Committee which you will find listed on pages 26-27. Jim Moore, our new Secretary, has been introduced to the arcane ways of Minute taking which you will notice he has totally ignored in his summary of the last meeting.

Summer saw the launch of the British Nursing Index on CD-ROM and via Internet and we include a report on the first 6 months. Our cover photo was taken at the BNI launch at the RCN and shows various RCN and Bournemouth University types smiling cheerfully because the live demo had worked. We also include a review of another new nursing database - the ENB CD-ROM.

Access to information via the Internet is also considered in this issue. Amanda Richardson's report on access to the internet for nurses in the Highlands of Scotland was discussed here last issue and is now available. We've also included a range of useful internet addresses. The Committee is now considering what the Group can do to promote the Internet to nurses. If you have ideas, please contact a member of the Committee.

The Editors

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TONY SHEPHERD LEAVES LfN

Tony Shepherd left his post as Head of Library and Information Services at the Royal College of Nursing in August 1997, in order to take up a new position as Librarian of a Learning Resource Centre in a College of Further Education at the beginning of September 1997. As this post is outside the health care libraries field, Tony has resigned from the Libraries for Nursing Committee.

The Libraries for Nursing Committee on behalf of the membership would like to thank Tony very much for all his hard work over the years as Chair of this group. Tony has been a well known figure in the nursing and health libraries field, and has represented the information needs of nurses on many different occasions. Tony played an important role in ensuring that Library provision was fully considered when Project 2000 was introduced. He was co-author of the report *Library and information services to support Project 2000* in 1992 and author of *Resourcing Project 2000 nursing courses: the role of library and information services* written in 1990.

We would like to give Tony our best wishes for the future.

Jackie Lord
RCN Library and Information Services
September 1997

A NOTE FROM THE (FORMER) CHAIRMAN

I am very sorry to be standing down as Chairman of LfN because I have taken a post in another sector of education. I have had such an interesting and worthwhile experience within the group during the last few years and I will not forget the large number of interesting people that I have been able to meet as a result of LfN activities. The task of a chairperson is greatly dependent upon the commitment of the group and committee members. LfN has always been fortunate in having a high level of enthusiasm among its members and this is clearly seen within the committee of the group. The positive approach taken by the committee to the tasks which it faces has made the job of chairing the group easy and (usually) straightforward.

I am now responsible for learning resources in a City Technology College and can confirm that the challenges faced by this education sector are the same as those confronting the health care area. Inadequate financial resources, plus the need for political awareness and quality strategic planning for library and information services are examples of the challenges which are prevalent in both sectors. LfN has a developing role in ensuring that the library and information needs of nurses are kept firmly on a number of agendas.

Looking back to my early days within the health care sector (about nine years ago) library and information support for nursing was very 'patchy' with some

well resourced sites. There were too many small libraries which had limited provision and which seemed to depend upon the interest and attitude of individual Directors of Nursing Education. Today I believe the situation is quite different, with a genuine recognition of the role of library and information services in supporting professional work and education of nurses, midwives and health visitors. LfN can take some credit for having contributed to this changing attitude.

I would like to thank all members of LfN, especially the Committee, for all the hard work and support they have given me over the years. Very best wishes to you all for the future in your professional activities.

Tony Shepherd.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

being based on the scrawlings of the Secretary after the last Libraries for Nursing Committee meeting.

The last LfN Committee meeting took place on 5th September 1997.

Mark Field, LA advisor on special libraries in the health and commercial sectors was welcomed to the meeting and spoke about his work and that of his colleague, Lindsay Rees-Jones.

Pam Bailey was thanked for her work over 5 years as Secretary. Jim Moore has taken on the role. Maurice Wakeham agreed to act as Chairman until the next AGM in the light of Tony Shepherd's departure.

LfN has a Regional group of many years standing based in Yorkshire - not many people know that. An article describing their activities was requested for the *Bulletin*. Perhaps other regions would like to follow their example in setting up a group?

The July edition of *Bulletin* [*That's this one. Ed.*] has been delayed because promised items have failed to appear. The next issue will be a double one [*That's this one too. Ed.*].

National Library Week activities were discussed. *Health Service Journal*, *Nursing Standard* and *Nursing Times* are expected to feature the Week.

LfN's programme at *Under One Umbrella* had been well received with over 60 people attending.

A *Core List of Nursing Books and Journals* is being worked on by Jim Moore. Jim was congratulated on his efforts so far.

Jim Moore Secretary, LfN

THE EVINCE PROJECT: A SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Christine Urquhart and Rebecca Davies

Some key findings are presented here with a brief discussion of the implications for library and information services for nurses, midwives and health visitors.

Impact of information provided

- Information provided *did* or *would* contribute to improved nursing competence. Some 96% of the information requesters (respondents) agreed that the information would affect one or more categories of nursing competence and practice.
- The top two categories were *Evaluation of practice outcomes* and *Improved quality of life for patient and family*.
- Nursing professionals generally have a very broad view of the areas of competence affected by information obtained.
- There are few differences in the pattern of impact for different professional groups or grades. The differences seem to reflect the differing responsibilities and whether the patients are 'sick' (hospital inpatients, for example) or 'healthy' (pregnant women).
- The perceived impact of information is generally higher when information is acquired for course work. In other words, there is a halo effect from the total educational intervention.

What can be deduced from the above evidence? Certainly the information provided has an impact, which can be specified in terms of particular competencies, on reflective nursing, midwifery and health visiting practice. It's interesting that the top two categories do demonstrate two sides of clinical effectiveness: concern with the outcomes of nursing care and concern that care is the most appropriate for the individual and family. The next most popular category is *Interpersonal relations with clients or patients*, confirming the importance of communication skills for nurses.

Promoting clinical effectiveness amongst nursing professionals is not simply about ensuring that as health professionals they should have access "*at the point of clinical decision with relevant information about the latest clinical knowledge, research findings, effective practice and health outcomes*"⁽¹⁾. The information needs to be seen as relevant to them as individuals, and getting research into practice always has been, and probably will continue to be a complex business. If benefits of information are seen to be greater when that information is obtained as part of course work, information providers should be working closely with the education providers to ensure that maximum impact of information is provided. For many nurses formal education courses provide an environment where questioning of current practice is actively encouraged, and this process of discovery and reflection should be supported carefully by information service staff. Getting research into practice requires more than having the *Cochrane Library* networked to every department, and the librarian needs to make the most of opportunities

within formal education processes (courses, study days) and information education (opinion leaders, journal clubs and team meetings).

Planning a campaign for an integrative and collaborative approach with education and training providers is made slightly easier by the fact that these three areas of competence seem generally popular. Nursing role, degree of practice autonomy, and the type of patients or clients have some effects on the pattern of competencies affected, but these are not substantial. The holistic nature of nursing care also means that information might have a broad effect on several competencies. Possibly it's easier to notch up benefits that way!

Information sources used by nursing professionals for course work

- Formal requests and searches for information are made in connection with course work. Continuing nursing education in the form of post-basic courses, diploma and degree courses prompts many requests presented to information and library services, but information for course work is also obtained from colleagues, departmental and personal collections.

Resources such as personal collections, base/ward information sources and colleagues are used more frequently than libraries as sources of information for course work, though this does not necessarily mean that they are rated more highly.

Expectations of libraries

Comparing the results for the pilot study with the main phase findings suggests that frequency of library use is governed by two factors: convenience (getting there, parking, opening hours) and reliability (will the information be there?). Interviews with over 100 of the respondents also suggested that given a choice between two libraries, one convenient but with few resources, and the other less convenient but with more resources, the respondents would opt for content over convenience. This confirms the findings of another more local study⁽²⁾.

Libraries are used mainly for personal updating and course work. The critical incident survey found that updating accounted, in part, for 62% of the incidents in which a library was used, and course work for 54%. However, patient care is involved in many of these incidents, particularly for queries about specific drugs or therapies and teaching of staff or students is another reason for using libraries. Many of the information quests have more than one underlying purpose - a mix of patient care and educational purposes is quite common, for example. Around one in four incidents when a library was used was for formal (funded) research.

There were two main surveys in the main phase of EVINCE. One was a critical incident survey of the patterns of information need and use among a random sample of nurses, midwives and health visitors. The other survey examined searches and requests made at a variety of information and library services including national, NHS and HE services. The survey of searches and requests confirmed the importance of formal course work as a motivation for using information and library services. Some 69% of searches or

requests were prompted in part by course work, though personal curiosity was a prompt, wholly or partly, for 43% of searches or requests.

What do nursing professionals want from a library service?

Analysis of the interviewees' comments revealed that the majority preferred personal visits, for a variety of reasons, including:

- a wish to browse journals (though many noted the need for more specialist journals to be available for browsing);
- consulting textbooks (the more up-to-date the better);
- using the CD-ROM.

Several respondents mentioned that they would like a better telephone enquiry service, and some thought that remote access to databases such as CINAHL would be helpful. At the time of the survey access to the Internet was just starting in many libraries. Very few of the survey participants used the Internet as a source of information. Responses to posting one of the survey questionnaires on Nuresnet suggest that discussion lists might be more popular among nursing professionals with easier access to the Internet - particularly if they have access at home as well as work.

There is still a need - a big need - for user education. The good news is that 25% of nursing professionals are confident and 'expert' information seekers, which is a tribute to the many librarians who have got successful programmes established, as well as to the nursing professionals who have to find their way round a variety of library and information services. The bad news is that 20% are not. In between there are groups with varying degrees of expertise, strategies for finding information and knowledge of sources.

Use of national services (RCN, MIDIRS)

A service such as MIDIRS is popular as the information provided is relevant, delivered in time, and the service is accessible by phone call. It satisfies the criteria of reliability and accessibility.

For the vast majority of midwives MIDIRS represents excellent value for money.

The RCN library is valued for its unique collection of nursing literature, and for many nursing professionals it is a lifeline. There always have been a substantial number of nurses 'on the register' but not in work, and a growing number of nurses work in the private sector. For these groups in particular a national service such as the RCN library is particularly useful. Many of our interviewees would welcome more resourcing (and more space) for the RCN library.

Information for patients

Nursing professionals who are educating patients or teaching staff or students do not view information and library services as major sources of information.

The most popular sources of information for teaching are those immediately available - sources at base, personal collections, colleagues and drug

information services (including hospital pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies). In fact, nursing professionals are four times more likely to turn to sources at base or on the ward than to use a patient information centre or helpline. One wonders how aware some health professionals are of the quality and quantity of information that is available for patients. A survey (3) of health professionals' views of health education leaflets found that few health visitors and midwives believed that giving leaflets to the family of a client was effective although many did so. The EVINCE results also suggest that more needs to be done if the NHS is 'to provide information to patients and the public so they can make informed choices about their own lives, know what action to take to help themselves, know when and how to seek help, and so they can take part in decisions and choices about care and treatment' (4).

Quality assurance guidelines

There seems to be a dearth of proper evidence on which quality assurance guidelines and performance targets could be based. Many information services do not collect the type of management information which can help identify user groups, market penetration, level of use, and trends in use.

Stark, but true in too many places. Not all the blame can be placed at the door of the library manager, as the libraries are often 'piggy in the middle' between machinations at higher levels. Management information that should be easy to obtain, e.g. from human resources departments, is not always of the quality it should be, nor is it delivered regularly. Libraries too need to look at the type of management information they collect and be prepared to study profiles of use, rather than the gross statistics, which are often only useful for workload purposes. And managers, of course, need to listen when such surveys are done.

The following recommendations concern the quality assurance guidelines.

There are suggested targets in the main report and discussion of the findings of the audit survey, which studied 15 different library services throughout the country.

- The solutions generally have to be found at local level, to take account of policies and procedures, in the NHS, HE and other health information services in the locality.
- Networking, formal and informal, among health information providers, might help to streamline policies on access to journals, document delivery and user education.
- Proper consultation with service users would help to establish priorities which go some way to meeting the users' needs as well as satisfying resource constraints.
- Proper management information is required to inform decision making about equitable information and library services for nurses, midwives and health visitors.

The targets concern:

- user education (comprehensive strategies required)
- access and holdings policies for nursing journals
- evaluation and monitoring of CD-ROM database services.

References

- 1 Department of Health. *A service with ambitions*. Cm 3425. London: Stationery Office (1996): 42
- 2 Yeoh, J. and Morrissey, C. Selection of library services by post-registration nursing, midwifery and health visiting students. *Health Libraries Review* 13(2) (1996): 97-107
- 3 Murphy, S. and Smith, C. Crutches, confetti or useful tools? Professionals, views on and use of health education leaflets. *Health Education Research* 8(2) (1993): 205-215
- 4 Department of Health. *A service with ambitions*. Cm3425. London: Stationery Office (1996): 42-43

Acknowledgements

We thank the British Library Research and Innovation Centre for funding the EVINCE research, and we are indebted to the many librarians and nursing professionals who contributed to the research work.

EVINCE surveys: brief details

Nursing professionals using the library and information services of a variety of organisations (national services, higher education and/or NHS funded services) were asked to assess the value to present and future competence of information obtained from various types of information request (13 services, response 40%: 311/776 requests).

The information service users were also asked about the purposes of their information request, the background to the request and their attitudes towards information seeking. To set those assessments in context, a random sample of 210 nurses, midwives and health visitors, at certain sites, was surveyed to help determine the general patterns of information need and use among the total population of nurses, not merely the library and information service users. A critical incident technique was used in this second survey. (5 sites, overall response 52%: 434/840 questionnaires, with 78% of individuals surveyed replying at least once to the series of four questionnaires).

Follow-up interviews (106 individuals) provided details of: specific examples of the areas of competence affected; information-seeking strategies and skills among nursing professionals; effect of information supply on nursing practice.

An audit survey of around 15 information services provided details of the type of use made of services such as inter-library loans, book loans, and CD-ROM.

The full research report is available as:

Davies R, Urquhart CJ, Smith J, Massiter C and Hepworth JB. *Establishing the value of information to nursing continuing education: report of the EVINCE project* (British Library Research and Innovation Report 44). Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7BQ: British Library Document Supply Centre (British Thesis Service), 1997.

Christine Urquhart: Department of Information and Library Studies, University of Wales Aberystwyth, SY23 3AS, tel.01970-622162, fax 01970-622190, email cju@aber.ac.uk
Rebecca Davies: Library and Information Services, University of Wales Swansea

LIBRARY ACCESS

Despite our best efforts National Library Week will probably be over by the time that you receive this. Perhaps you could let us know what you did, for a future issue. *Nursing Standard* have launched a campaign in their October 29th 1997 issue to improve access to libraries. The campaign sets out a checklist of five demands:

- Nurses should have access to a free library service funded by employers
- Libraries should have flexible opening hours and be staffed by qualified librarians
- Nurses should have paid study time
- Nurses should have training on appropriate databases including the internet
- Nurses should be educated in using systems and services which support evidence based practice.

(*Nursing Standard*, 6(12) Oct 29 - Nov 4 1997, pp24-29)

AUTUMN STUDY DAY

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES
LIBRARIES
&
LIBRARIES FOR NURSING

Informed Health Library Services: using research to
shape our practice

Thursday 20th November 1997

at
University of Northumbria, Newcastle

Fee: £40

Programme

- 11.00 Welcome: Ian Winkworth, University of Northumbria at Newcastle
- 11.05 Dr Linda Banwell, University of Northumbria
Overview: library and information science research
- 11.30 Catherine Edwards, University of Northumbria at Newcastle
INPEL 2: Impact on people of electronic libraries
- 12.00 Sue Capel, University of Northumbria at Newcastle
Funding and delivery of library and information services for nurses
- 12.30 Jane Farmer, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen
Information needs of nurses working in remote areas
- 1.00 Lunch
- 2.00 Discussion groups. Using research to shape our practice
- 3.00 Tea and Panel discussion
- 3.30 Veronica Fraser, Library Adviser, Department of Health
Getting funding for research
- 4.00 Close

To attend - contact Sue David, LfN Treasurer, St George's Hospital
Medical School library, Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE.
Tel: 0181-725 2589. E-mail: sdavid@sghms.ac.uk

USEFUL WORLD WIDE WEB (INTERNET) SITES FOR NURSES

Paul Moorbath

The following web sites are of interest to nurses. If you can recommend others or wish to make amendments, please send them to the editors. Note these do change so no printed list is ever up to date!

Acupuncture

<http://acupuncture.com/index.htm>

Gateway to further information on acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine and massage. List of practitioners

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

Terrence Higgins Trust

<http://www.tht.org.uk/>

Lists services and information available for people with AIDS and campaign information

Anaesthetics

GASNet

<http://www.gasnet.eur.nl>

Has news, meetings, conferences, book reviews. Select "Global textbook of anaesthesiology" from home page. This contains an online encyclopaedia of anaesthetics. Sponsored by publishers Williams and Wilkins

Biology

Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm

<http://www.mic.kise/Other.html>

Gateway to other sites but with strength in biology, anatomy, molecular biology, genetics with pages on the human genome project, microbiology including a hypertextbook of cell biology and slide collection on histology and pathology.

Virtual Nursing Center

<http://www.sci.lib.uci.edu/~martindale/Nursing.html>

Includes anatomical models and diagrams

Bookshop

<http://www.bookshop.co.uk>

Catalogue of over 900 000 book titles currently in print. Has the standard texts and an amazing range of specialist texts too

Child Abuse

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect

<http://www.ndacan.cornell.edu/>

Select "current holdings" for full text American reports on child abuse

Education

ERIC

<http://eric.syr.edu/Eric/>
Gives access to ERIC, the education equivalent of Medline. It goes back to 1989. Subjects or authors can be searched for and Boolean logic used.

Health

Health Centre

<http://www.healthcentre.org.uk/>
Important British gateway to other sites in nursing and midwifery and various organisations e.g. National Childbirth Trust. Lists of hospitals and trusts addresses

Health Education Board for Scotland

<http://www.hebs/scot/nhs.uk>
This gives access to the data base of health articles in the library in Edinburgh and health education information in Scotland

Health Sciences Library System

<http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/subjects/subjects.html>
This is an American gateway to other sites which are listed alphabetically by topic eg gastroenterology. Some sites are not available in UK and some information is local for Pittsburgh so is of limited use.

Health Economics

Centre for Health Economics, University of York
<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/che/>
News of ongoing research in health economics and health care costs etc.

Libraries

Library of Congress Catalog
<http://lcweb.loc.gov/catalog/browse/>
Catalog for Library of Congress allowing searching by author or title etc. back to last century

Medline

National Library of Medicine
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>
This is the National Library of Medicine website started in June 1997. Select Grateful Med on the home page then select grey proceed button. This gives the search screen allowing subject searching by subject from 1966. It can be limited to English language and Nursing only.

<http://www.health.ny.net/library/search/medline.htm>

This gives access to the full Medline.
Subjects can be typed in the top search box and linked with AND. Authors can also be searched for. At the bottom of the search form the search can be limited to English only.

Healthgate

<http://www.healthgate.com/>
This gives access to the last 2 years of Medline.

Midwifery

Midirs

<http://www.gn.apc.org/midirs/>
Gateway to other midwifery sites but some links do not seem to work! There are abstracts for the current issue of *Midwifery Digest*. Details of services e.g. literature searching done by *Midirs* and their publications

Midwifery Resources on the Internet

<http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~ics/midwifery.htm>
Has links to various midwifery sites obtained by selecting midwifery resources. There is a list of midwifery sites and it is possible to search Yahoo! which searches the www for topics. There are links to bulletin boards of various groups

Online Birth Center

<http://www.efn.org/~djz/birth/birthindex.html>
Gateway to other sites in midwifery, breast feeding and pregnancy etc.

National Health Service

Department of Health
<http://www.open.gov.uk/>
Gives access to general information about DoH, press releases in full text, Health of the Nation, circulars

NHS Confederation Gateway (Formerly NAHAT)

<http://www.nahat.net/gateway.htm>
Lists Internet resources by subject e.g. hospices and there is an interesting Hyperguide to the Mental Health Act. Some journals none of which are nursing are available e.g. *BMJ*. *Health Service Journal* current issue is available upon registration.

Nursing

American Journal of Nursing

<http://www.ajn.org>
Has the current contents of *AJN*, *Cancer Nursing*, *Nursing Research*

ENB Link

<http://www.enb.org.uk/>
Has ENB circulars in full text and publications. News of research in progress and Research Digest. Careers information.
The ENB database can be searched for articles and reports by selecting Health Care Database on home page. A useful resource.

MedWeb Nursing
<http://gen.emory.edu/medweb/medweb.nursing.html>
 American gateway with topics in alphabetic order e.g. critical care listing various sites and contact groups under each topic also some electronic journals such as *Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*

Nurse www Information Service
<http://med714bham.ac.uk/nursing/>
<http://medweb.bham.ac.uk/nursing>
 British gateway no longer regularly updated. Has links to other sites

Nurseweek Healthweek
<http://www-nurseweek.webnexus.com>
 General American nursing magazine

Nursing Bibliographies
<http://www.soton.ac.uk/~library/wml/nurlist.html>
<http://www.soton.ac.uk/~library/wml/midw.htm>
 Bibliographies on nursing (nurlist) and midwifery (midw) compiled from accession to Southampton University library

Nursing and Health Care Resources on the Net
<http://www.shet.ac.uk/~nhcon/>
 British gateway at Sheffield University to other web sites. Lists other web sites with logos in UK and abroad. Includes radiography, alternative medicine and access to recruitment agencies

Nursing Standard
<http://www.nursing-standard.co.uk/>
 Current week's editorial, letters and news for *Nursing Standard* but not full text. Also has link to RCN home page

NursingNet
<http://www.nursingnet.org/>
 American online nursing magazine with lots of chat rather patronizing

Royal College of Nursing
 See *Nursing Standard* home page at <http://www.nursing-standard.co.uk/>

Virtual Nursing Center
<http://www-sci.lib.uci.edu/~martindale/Nursing.html>
 Excellent gateway to other sites. Based in Sydney, Australia. Has links to anatomical models and to nursing journals such as *BMJ* abstracts for past two years and *AORN Journal* for previous six months etc.

Virtual Nursing College
<http://www.langara.bc.ca/unc/>
 Gateway to other American sites. The National Institute of Nursing Research Grants shows ongoing research in USA

OMNI

<http://www.omni.ac.uk>
 This is an important gateway allowing searching by topics and MeSH (same as Medline) for medical, health management and patient support groups such as Age Concern. Also library catalogues such as the National Library of Medicine. Also allows access to 2 years' worth of Medline via Healthgate (see address above) and online bookshop.

Paediatrics

Pedinfo
<http://W3.LHL.UAB.EDU/pedinfo>
 Extensive American gateway listing pediatric diseases and syndromes in alphabetical order e.g. Down syndrome and cystic fibrosis with information and links to patient support groups in USA. Under pediatric nursing, includes *Midwifery Today* and *Journal of Neonatal Nursing* abstracts.

Pharmacology

PharmInfoNet
 Drugs can be searched for by properties e.g. anti-depressant or by chemical name or by American trade name. Indications and case histories with adverse effects are given. There is a data base of press releases.

Psychiatry

American Psychiatric Society
<http://www.psych.org/>
 American Psychiatric Society news and abstracts from its journal for past year

Internet Mental Health

<http://www.mentalhealth.com/>
 Encyclopaedia of mental health with many mental conditions listed alphabetically with pages on descriptions of symptoms and therapy. Also self help groups. Gateway to other mental health sites

Mental Health Information

<http://onlinepsych.com/mh/>
 Gateway with a selection of mental health topics with further information on each and links to self help groups etc.

Pharmacology

PharmInfoNet
http://pharminfo.com/pin_hp.html
 American. Drugs can be searched for by properties e.g. anti-depressant or by American trade name or chemical name. Indications and case histories are given with adverse effects. Also has database of press releases on drugs. Note some of these may not be available on the NHS and may have a different name in UK

Psychology

Scholarly Psychology Resources on the Web
<http://www.gasou.edu/psychweb/resource/bytopic.htm>
 Gateway to other sites and academic departments in psychology. Links to other psychology sites and psychology journals with current contents

Social Work

National Institute for Social Work
<http://www.nisw.org.uk/index.html>
 News about the organisation and its publications including *Caredata CD ROM*. Select "full text" from home page for Briefings on various topics e.g. long-term care and various research reports

Sociology

Social Science Gateway
<http://www.sosig.ac.uk/>
 Important British gateway to over 1700 other network sites in social science and psychology. Information on organisations and support groups e.g. on autism, articles and data bases

World Health Organization

[gopher://gopher.who.ch/](http://gopher.who.ch/)
 General information and addresses about WHO but otherwise disappointing.

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HEALTH LIBRARIES GROUP

Jackie Lord represents LfN, which is a sub-group of HLG, on the Health Libraries Group Committee. Contact her if you feel anything should be raised through the Group or if you would like to know about the Group's activities.

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NURSING, REMOTE AREAS AND THE INTERNET - REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Amanda Richardson

Findings of an innovative multidisciplinary project carried out by the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen suggest:

- A lack of awareness among nursing staff of information resources such as Cinahl, Medline and the Cochrane database.

- Nursing staff in the Western Isles face significant difficulties accessing information.

- There is a lack of clinical information orientated towards community nursing on the Internet.

- Senior health service personnel appear to be aware of the need for nursing staff to access and use information.

The final report of this project is now available.

This report examines the potential of the Internet and other networked information resources in improving access to information for nursing staff working in the remote Western Isles. The report provides further evidence regarding nurses and their interaction with information. Important issues have been raised by this study which are of relevance to information professionals, nursing educators, and health care managers. The project team consisted of a community nurse working in the Western Isles, an information professional and staff at the school of Nursing and School of Information and Media, the Robert Gordon University. Funding to carry out this project was received from the Scottish Library and Information Council and the National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting in Scotland.

An article based on this research appeared in the last issue of LfN Bulletin: Jane Farmer and Amanda Richardson. Access to information for nursing staff in remote areas: Does the internet have the answer? *LfN Bulletin* 17(1) pp4-7.

To order a copy of the full report (priced £6.50) please contact:

Amanda Richardson, School of Information and Media, Robert Gordon University, 352 King Street, Aberdeen.

Tel: 01224-262960

Fax: 01224-262969

E-mail: a.richardson@rgu.ac.uk

Amanda Richardson is based at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES FOR THE NURSING PROFESSION: METHODS OF FUNDING AND DELIVERY.

Sue Capel

"We owe it to nursing in general, we just cannot afford not to have an educated workforce, whether they are students or whether they're trained staff ... I don't want to think of our staff being caught on the hop by what is going to be a very educated undergraduate group and they need the back-up of being able to get hold of somebody to find out and the articles to keep them up-to-date." (Head of Nursing, Trust Hospital)

In October 1996, the Library and Information Co-operation Council (LINC), through its Health Panel, commissioned research from the Department of Information and Library Management at the University of Northumbria at Newcastle to investigate changes in the organisation and funding of library and information services to the nursing profession since the move of nurse education into higher education.

The aims of the project were to:

- help to identify the relationship of contracting to funding to service to access
- provide an overview to policy makers and practitioners on the provision and range of library services to nurses and how they are delivered and funded
- help to identify ways in which the Health Panel can ensure that the concerns and issues revealed can be placed before the appropriate policy makers and so influence appropriate access from the most appropriate settings
- help to identify good practice for dissemination.

The project report methodology consists of a literature review identifying key issues in the delivery and funding of library and information services to nurses and a summary of data obtained from semi-structured interviews with key professionals in both the higher education and NHS trust hospital sectors in the North-East of England. The main body of the research contains an analysis and interpretation of qualitative and quantitative data obtained from a questionnaire survey conducted in England, Scotland and Wales.

The literature review provides a broad perspective on the problems involved in the move of library and information services into higher education, placing those problems in the broader perspective of changes in higher education, the National Health Service and nurse education generally. Issues covered in the literature review are those arising from the management and funding of library and information services for nurses, service and resource provision including the learning resource centre model, examples of practice in the regions and the influence and uses of new information technology developments in provision for distance learning and remote sites. Areas

identified for further investigation from the results of literature review and the indicative interviews were used to form the basis of the questionnaire survey.

Key themes emerging from the research results from the main body of findings correlate with original interview findings and are echoed in the responses to a request for the five main key factors for development and are as follows:

- co-operation and communication between Trusts and universities
- the need for adequate funding to support all nursing groups
- good practice models in contracting and management arrangements
- the development of electronic solutions to the problems of distance users
- the provision of services at the point of need
- adequate user education support systems
- the development of joint working programmes for the networking of information systems.

It is suggested that the recommendations based on the themes and issues of concern which have emerged from the findings of the research project should be used as the basis for further discussions, research and action amongst those in the higher education and health service professions who have a responsibility or interest in the provision of library and information services to nurses.

Conclusions

The report calls for better partnerships between the different providers and purchasers of library services to ensure:

- access arrangements for all categories of nurses
- adequate funding of library and information services for nurses
- good models for contractual arrangements between purchasers and providers
- communication and decision making between NHS Trusts and Universities
- the use of information technology and networks.

"There is a need for a strategic link, position papers coming out so that people like myself, could look at that and think that's the way forward ..." (Head of Information Services, University)

The Report can be ordered from:

The Administrator, Information Services, Royal Society of Medicine,
1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE

The report costs £21.90 per copy (£19.90 plus £2 pp)

Please make cheques for the full amount payable to: LINC Health Panel

BNI - The First 6 Months

John Gill

The launch period for the British Nursing Index (BNI) has come to a successful conclusion with participation at the Under-one-Umbrella exhibition in Manchester at the end of June. BNI first appeared in January when the two indexing services, *Nursing and Midwifery Index* and *Nursing Bibliography/Nurse Rom* were merged in order to draw on their combined strengths. The intention was to produce the UK's premier index to nursing and related literature, being both the most comprehensive and the most current. It is believed this is being achieved, and highly promising subscription figures show BNI to be well represented in libraries serving nurses across the country.

The highlight and official launch was at the RCN's Cowdray Hall in May, when RCN president Betty Kershaw spoke to a gathering of leaders from both nursing and nursing librarianship about the birth of BNI. Since that event, the wider world of nursing was introduced to BNI at the RCN Congress in Harrogate, when many tried their hand at the Internet version.

Not the least of the successes of the initial 6 months has been the coming together of the librarians of the 4 partners behind BNI - the RCN, Bournemouth University, Poole Hospital and Salisbury District Hospital. It is regarded as a strength of the index that the management, editorial and indexing teams are all current librarians with many years combined experience in serving the needs of trained and student nurses, midwives and health visitors.

Developments for BNI are under consideration, but priority is being given to maintaining the production targets set for all the 3 versions of BNI - the monthly printed index, the quarterly CD-Rom, and the very current Internet BNI.

Further details are available from:

Beryl Grindrod, BNI Publications
Library & Information Services
Bournemouth University
Fern Barrow
Poole, Dorset BH12 5BB

Tel: 01202-595454
Fax: 01202-595475
e-mail: bgrindro@bournemouth.ac.uk

John Gill works for Poole NHS Trust

REVIEW SECTION

ENB CD ROM

ENB CD-ROM. Annual subscription £131.60 (including VAT, P&P). Available from Careers and Resource Department, ENB, Victory House, 170 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0HA

The aim of this CD-ROM is "to disseminate board information to nurses, midwives and health visitors" and to be accessible to all levels of users from the beginner to the information professional.

The screen layout and user interface is in a similar format to a WWW page which is user friendly especially for the beginner. The pages look uncluttered and attractive and can be navigated through a simple "point and click" action. The retrieved records display is bold and clear with each field heading in full rather than the confusing codes used in many CD-ROMs.

However when a search is undertaken the limitations of this database become clear. A simple search will only use words from the index and will only search one type of document. This means that very few records are actually retrieved. The advanced search is better as it allows search terms to be entered and all document types to be searched. However the number of "hits" achieved is disappointing unless a very general subject is entered. There is also no opportunity to use Boolean logic to combine terms.

Although this database is simple to navigate and looks attractive the user is limited both by the content and possible search strategies offered. It does seem to live up to its claim to be "powerful enough to satisfy the search requirements of the Information professional".

Tamasine Ashcroft (City University St Bartholomew School of Nursing and Midwifery, London)

BOOK REVIEWS

NAMED Nursing and Midwifery Education Directory

Available from PNK Publications, Lilac House, Appleton Roebuck, York YO5 7DH at £15.95 or on CD-ROM at £98.00 including VAT

The printed directory is spiral bound and lists nursing and midwifery teaching institutions throughout the UK in alphabetic order. Each entry consists of name, address, tel and fax numbers, followed by the names of heads of department. The directory has a straightforward approach.

It must be regarded as an essential acquisition for any nursing library reference section. Administrators should be encouraged to obtain their own copies, otherwise this book is likely to disappear.

Directory of Maternity Organisations

Available from MIDIRS, 9 Elmdale Road, Bristol BS8 1SL at £4.95 plus £2.50 p&p, but p&p is free of charge to subscribers to MIDIRS Midwifery Digest

This directory lists organisations alphabetically by their name. It includes pressure groups, patient support groups and groups which organise study days for midwives. Each entry consists of name, address, tel., fax and e-mail and a paragraph outlining main activities and publications. At the end there is a subject index.

The layout is striking for the name of each organisation is highlighted in white letters on a crimson background and the standard of production is high. At £4.95, this publication is outstanding value and can be thoroughly recommended as an essential addition for any midwifery library.

JOURNAL NEWS

Coronary Health Care commenced publication in February. It is published by Churchill Livingstone. Library subscription is £135 per annum.

The journal is aimed at nurses in cardiovascular medicine and cardiac rehabilitation staff. The first issue included research papers on support of patients between angiography and bypass surgery, assessing the quality of patient education leaflets, and a review on the effectiveness of cardiac rehabilitation. At the end of the journal there is a section with discussion of case studies and news of research from other journals.

This is a top quality journal and should be considered by any library supporting work in this area.

Health: an Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine

It is published half yearly by Sage, and commenced publication in July. Library subscription is £50 per annum. Papers in the first issue looked at relations between health care professionals and clients. Some papers seemed long and philosophical.

Managing Clinical Nursing is published quarterly by Churchill Livingstone and was launched in March. Library subscription is £65 per annum.

It aims to support nurses in clinical management positions and offers practical advice.

The articles in the first issue included advice and accounts of personal experience rather than research.

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