

LIBRARIES for NURSING

Bulletin

Volume 17

Number 4

Winter 1997



Guidelines for Health Service Libraries

Operating with Knowledge
Conference Report

Regional Associations

Journal News

Book Reviews

LfN

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Vol.17, No.4, winter 1997

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions run from January-December and cost £10.00.

A reduced subscription is available for students at £5.00.

Please send enquiries about non-delivery or address changes to the membership secretary:

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To advertise in the Bulletin please contact the Editor.

Prices: £50.00 per full page insert

£25.00 per half page

£75.00 per double page spread

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Copy deadlines:

18(1) Mar 20 1998

18(2) May 29 1998

18(3) Aug 28 1998

18(4) Dec 31 1998

L/N is a subgroup of the Health Libraries Group of the Library Association.
Registered Charity no.313014.

The L/N Bulletin is published quarterly by the Libraries for Nursing subgroup of the Health Libraries Group.
ISSN 1354-1412

EDITORIAL

The importance of library services to health professionals working in the NHS was officially acknowledged in Circular HSG(97)47 - *Library and Information Services* published by the NHS Executive in November. In order to make its contents more widely known, we include the text in this issue. The circular indicates that funding is still complicated and librarians will have to make sure they get their share of monies allocated. There is no guidance about linking NHS and university libraries. But there is, at least, the promise that further good practice guidance on library services will be drawn up and disseminated. There is mention of NHS net provision but not of other forms of electronic information delivery such as the Internet or CD-ROM. Veronica Fraser (NHS Library Advisor at the Department of Health) would be happy to hear your comments on the Guidelines, as indeed would the *Bulletin*.

Another NHS document (EL (97) 58 - *Education and training planning and guidance*) calls for effective planning between education purchasing consortia and providers, in particular over library provision for students on placements. The document also calls library and information services 'the bedrock of education and training'. They 'are critical to the development of evidence based practice and clinical effectiveness, for general updating and for supporting continuing education and professional development'. It is the responsibility of health service employers to ensure 'that they provide adequate modern LIS support for their staff'.

The circulars recognise the problems about lack of access to libraries which nurses have to endure and which LfN have been banging on about for years. Parallel to this has been the high profile campaign for library access for nurses which has been expressed in a series of articles in *Nursing Standard*. This issue includes a letter from our Chairman to the Editor of the *Standard* outlining some of the problems and thanking the Editor for her support for nursing libraries.

The importance of libraries in the NHS was also noted by the Minister of State for Public Health, Tessa Jowell, at the Conference - *Operating with Knowledge* - organised by the Health Libraries Group as part of National Libraries Week. We have a report on that day in this issue.

The White Paper - The New NHS - was published just before Christmas and we include a brief summary and details.

This issue also includes details about two groups for health librarians in Scotland and Wales so, if you are eligible, please consider joining them if you are not already a member.

The Editors

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

(based on LfN Committee meeting on 1 December 1997)

Jim Moore has finished the draft version of the *Core list of Nursing books* and is sending copies to Committee members for constructive criticism. It is hoped this list will be useful to librarians who are new to health care and would like some guidance on what to buy, medical librarians who have not purchased stock for nurses, midwives or health visitors before and nurses who may wish to buy books for themselves or their workplace. (See page 13 for more information)

The Autumn Study Day on *Informed Health Library Services* was held jointly with the University Health Sciences Libraries at the University of Northumbria on 20 November. About 60 people attended, the change of venue seemed to be successful attracting people from Scotland and one from Northern Ireland. A full report of this event will appear in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

The Department of Health *Guidelines for Health Services Libraries* had just been published at the time of the meeting although some of the Committee had not as yet seen them. They were welcomed as an indication that the NHS recognised its responsibilities to provide a library service to all its employees (see page 6 for details of the Guidelines).

The LfN Committee has been agonising rather lately about what are it is here for. The Committee discussed this and concluded LfN has a role as

- * a voice for library and information services for nurses, representing information needs;
- * an educational and developmental role for nursing librarians via the Bulletin and Study Days;
- * a network of nursing library specialists;
- * a means of promoting and disseminating research relevant to nurses information needs and nurses libraries, via funding research, *Bulletin* and Study Days;
- * promoting quality in library services to nurses.

The 'job descriptions' of Committee members was also discussed. If you are interested, apply to the Secretary for further details.

LfN is in the process of developing a Web page and there was some discussion about what we should have on it. First priorities seem to be aims of the group, membership information and study day information.

Pam Duncan

LfN Study Day Organiser and part-time minute-taker

L/N CHAIRMAN'S LETTER TO NURSING STANDARD

The uncut version

The Nursing Standard has recently been running what must be one of the highest profile campaigns on the subject of nursing libraries ever to occur. The campaign began on October 29th 1997 [issue 12(6)] and ran through until January 21st 1998 [12(18)]. Many of the problems raised will not be new to Bulletin readers but the campaign seems to have been successful in raising the profile of libraries with nurses.

An edited version of the following letter appeared in the Nursing Standard for November 12, 1997.

Dear Editor

I am writing on behalf of Libraries for Nursing (Lfn) to welcome the *Nursing Standard's* campaign to bring pressure to bear on employers to provide adequate library access for their nursing staff. Your campaign will hopefully support what Lfn has been saying for years. Much of the research evidence that supports your own telephone survey has been at least part-funded by Lfn.

There is nothing new in nurses having poor library facilities. They may not be as bad as your survey shows. Library users, and more especially non-users, are not always aware of what services or facilities are available to them.

The move of nurse education into the higher education sector has served to draw attention to the inadequacy of provision for trained staff. In itself it is not a bad thing and nor is the closure of small or inadequate on-site libraries. We should not think of 'access' as only meaning the ability to walk into a room full of books and journals on the site where you work and the opportunity to take things away. 'Access' can just as easily mean a computer network link to a library catalogue or named librarian or document delivery system which can be contacted by email, phone or fax. A 24 hour (is this what 'flexible' is supposed to mean?) service fully responsive to user demands would be possible. University libraries may not offer a service to all practice staff but they might be open to negotiation to do so. We all know that libraries are largely free at the point of delivery; unfortunately they are not inexpensive to provide, whatever form provision may take.

Setting up a library let alone an integrated information service is no easy task. The hierarchical and tribal nature of the health service, the competition for money and the sense that the library can be provided for when all the 'important' things have been funded, and the limited knowledge of many nurses of how to use a library are among the problems. It can only be hoped that your campaign may bring attention to this issue and encourage nurses, managers and information workers to cooperate in providing a sound basis for the provision of services to support evidence based practice.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES HSG(97)47 Executive Summary

Libraries are a key resource for clinical effectiveness, for research and for education and training, all of which are crucial to the delivery of high quality health care. The lack of recent national guidance on library and information services and the complex funding arrangements for library services has led to the fragmentation of information provision within the NHS and not all NHS staff have access to the health knowledge base. This Guideline sets out key principles and actions for improving access to information via the development of multi-professional library and information services.

1. Action

1.1 NHS Trusts and Health Authorities

All NHS Trusts and Health Authorities should draw up a library and information strategy covering all staff groups.⁽¹⁾ This strategy should demonstrate how they plan to achieve access to library and information services for all their staff, by directly provided services, contracts or service level agreements, and the funding flows which support this. Such strategies should be in place by Autumn 1998 and should include arrangements to monitor progress.

NHS Staff includes all hospital, primary care and community health staff, relevant trainees, general medical and dental practitioners and their staff. An increasing amount of information is disseminated via electronic networks. Library and information services should be included in NHS Trust/Health Authority information management and technology strategies.

1.2 Regional Education and Development Groups (REDGs)/Education Consortia

Education contracts and strategic plans for multi-professional education, training and workforce planning should include access to library support. Consortia should encourage partnerships between NHS libraries and higher education providers and look flexible and innovatively at the scope for using funds to deliver improved library and information services.

1.3 Deans of Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education

The postgraduate medical and dental Deans have an important role to play in ensuring that Medical and Dental Education Levy (MADEL) contracts support the development of planned, high quality multi-professional library services and in monitoring the quality of services to doctors in training grades and for continuing medical education.

1.4 Regional Offices

Regional Offices will need to ensure that regionwide development of library and information services is in line with national strategies for information management and communication and that NHS Trust and Health Authorities develop action plans for effective library and information services for all staff groups. In addition, Regional Directors of Research and Development will

need to be satisfied that NHS Trusts and other providers receiving support funding from the R&D levy have access to the library services and resources needed to support the R&D work.

2. Background

2.1 *The Role of Library and Information Services in the NHS*

Access to the health knowledge base is essential to the delivery of high quality health care. Decision-making by staff and patients and carers needs to be evidence-based and health professionals need to be able to continue to develop and update their own skills. High quality libraries, and skilled library staff, are central to knowledge base access as they:

- provide information to enable NHS staff to carry out their work;
- support the education, training and professional development of all NHS staff;
- support postgraduate and continuing medical and dental education;
- support high quality evidence-based clinical practice and management decision making;
- support research and development undertaken by NHS staff and the dissemination of research findings;
- assist quality assurance and medical audit;
- provide health promotion and other information for patients.

Many NHS libraries function as multi-disciplinary units able to offer a wide range of services including enquiry services, online searching, journal and book loans, current awareness services, information retrieval and critical appraisal skills training. NHS library staff are familiar with a wide range of printed and electronic materials, have skills in information retrieval and management, and are experienced in training others to search for literature.

2.2 *Issues to be tackled*

The concept of a knowledge based service has resulted in increased demand for library and information services and a greater need for such services to be planned and co-ordinated across sectoral boundaries. However, the effective development of libraries has been hampered by several factors. These include:

- The lack of a national policy for library and information services or clear national links to R&D, Education and Training, or IM&T strategies.
- Complex funding. Trust libraries receive funding from multiple sources and funding streams for libraries can be difficult to identify.
- Uncertainty about capital funding for developing library and information services.
- A legacy of libraries established to serve separate professional groups.
- Uncertainty about the range of staff groups which library services are funded to support, which can lead to inadequate services for nursing and other non-medical professional staff and community-based staff.
- The transfer of nursing and midwifery education into Higher Education and the consequent closure or absorption of College of Health Libraries.

3. Key principles

3.1 Access

NHS libraries should be multi-disciplinary and meet the needs of all staff groups. NHS Trusts and Health Authorities have a responsibility as good employers, and as providers and commissioners of high quality evidence based care, to ensure that all staff have access to the information needed to carry out their work effectively. Access policies should consider the information needs of contractors, those undertaking career breaks and others.

3.2 Resources

Resources required to support an effective library service will vary according to local needs but will include a mix of professional and clerical library staff, an appropriate range of books and journals, electronic information resources, computers and networks.

3.3 Funding

There is a need for better co-ordination of funding streams for library services and clarity about the purposes and staff groups for which different funding streams are provided. Access to library services should be free at the point of use although charges may be levied for certain services, for example photocopying, where the library incurs a cost. Such charges should be levied on a common basis from all users. Current funding arrangements are summarised in Annex 1.

3.4 *Region-wide co-ordination*

There should be regionwide co-ordination of library services based on the key national principles of equity of access for all groups of staff, a multi-disciplinary approach to library provision and transparency in library funding. Regional Library Advisers will have a key role to play in this and in supporting NHS Trusts and HAs in developing local strategies encouraging co-operation and value for money services via partnerships, contracts and service level agreements.

4. Relevant Guidance

4.1 Further good practice guidance on library services will be drawn up and disseminated.

4.2 The role of library services in supporting education and training, research and development and other strategies is referred to in a range of Executive Letters and other publications:

- Education and Training Planning Guidance EL(97)39, Department of Health, 1997
- Promoting Clinical Effectiveness, Department of Health, 1996
- Planning and Priorities Guidance EL(97)19, Department of Health, 1997
- R&D Support Funding for NHS Providers from 1998/99: invitation to bid, Department of Health, 1997

OPERATING WITH KNOWLEDGE - REPORT OF HLG CONFERENCE Royal Society of Medicine 6 November 1997

This was organised by *Health Libraries Group* as part of National Libraries Week.

Joe Hendry (President of the Library Association) introduced day: libraries should be co-operative institutions and at the centre of their communities.

Tessa Jowell MP (Minister of State for Public Health) talked about how knowledge empowers people. It needs to be trustworthy, imaginative and intelligible. It is important that information be available, through whatever means, that the quality be good. Information rich still tends to mean economically rich, a recurrent theme throughout the day. The Health Service needs LIS services to inform clinical practice. Libraries should be part of the new Public Health Strategy - better patient care, evidence based culture, revised Patient's Charter, new White Paper (due before Christmas), new Green Paper (due after Christmas), and Healthy Living Centres (flavour of the month). There is a need to move towards a more coherent, less fragmented health service. Trusts and hospitals need good LIS services for doctors and patients.

Dr Muir Gray (Director of R & D, NHS Exec. Anglia & Oxford region) talked about how much better informed patients now are. Most are 'amply informed': a smaller number are 'well informed'. It is now quite possible that the clinician, particularly GPs, will be less well informed than their patients. How to manage information is the problem. In future internet based information will be available through supermarkets or the television in the home.

Institutions should have Chief Knowledge Officers who can gather information, appraise and translate it into knowledge for appropriate people, and then market and/or implement it. Knowledge needs to be available at the point of use, whether ward, surgery or community. This means it should be equally accessible for doctors and patients, that quality is more important than quantity, that the important thing about internet is hypertext (i.e. the ability to interact with the information). When savings have to be made journals and books should always be cut before people (i.e. librarians). Some audience speakers leapt to defend the book/journal vs the internet.

Michael Carmel (Director LIS, South Thames) referred to recent *Nursing Standard* survey that said that only 55% of nurses had recently used a Library. They wanted a 'home' library which was close in mind and location, sensitive to their requirements and designed to meet their needs. They wanted reading and borrowing rights, information retrieval and an enquiry and information searching facility as prime requirements.

Health library services seem to be getting support from *policy* making level but all the time the library is seen at operational level as a management overhead to be cut there would be problems. There is a need to rationalise the funding streams to libraries especially if they are to be multidisciplinary and also available to patients. Access is the priority and some librarians seem to have forgotten this. This should be the case because of the librarian's professional ethic, the idea of a health service for all, because of patients' rights (libraries are there ultimately to serve patients whichever way you look at it) and in terms of taxpayers rights (who really pays?).

Good library services need *planning*; this in turn needs a *partnership* approach and breakdown of artificial barriers. A viable service needs at least 2 librarians, better 4/5 staff at a start up cost of around £120,000 - a sum any trust should be able to afford, said some; cost of a service estimated at 0.15% of gross turnover of Trust. In practice single Trusts could probably not provide a critical mass of users (thought perhaps if patients included?), so further need for co-operation and planning (at regional level - the regional librarians said). Health systems are complex, there are many stakeholders in and outwith the health service, so partnerships are essential. Links will develop through implementing Dearing, LINC health panel and the Library and Information Commission's *People's Network* strategies.

Rabbi **Julia Neuberger** chaired the day and summed up. She identified themes of

- equalising relationships, between health care providers and patients, which means patient empowerment
- the need for information to be sifted, translated and benchmarked (especially internet)
- that not only medical libraries, but also health care libraries, need funding
- funding streams need rationalising/integrating and sorting out
- the need to decide on the role of the Knowledge Officer, does information need packaging?
- what to do about the socially excluded, the homeless, ethnic minorities?

The proceedings of the day, including question and answer sessions and reports of the afternoon workshops, are to be published and should be available by the time you read this.

Maurice Wakeham
Anglia Polytechnic University
Chelmsford

WHAT'S ASHSL ANYWAY?

ASSOCIATION OF SCOTTISH HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIANS

Alison Aiton,

It does in fact stand for the Association of Scottish Sciences Librarians and according to its constitution it exists

'to ensure the best possible access to the knowledge base of health care through supporting activities and developments in library and information services in Scotland'.

This is true! I have been asked as Scottish representative on the Libraries for Nursing Committee to write a small article giving a quick outline of the work of ASHSL (I would have put a 'wee' article but we don't want to get too twee do we?) [*Certainly not*- Ed.]

ASHSL is an association whose membership encompasses many people from very diverse places of work within Scotland: hospital trusts, the university sector, Health Board librarians, the community health care sector and those in the private sector to name but a few. The common theme is that they are all providing an information service in the 'health' arena.

ASHSL has a number of roles and functions. On the macro level it exists as a focal point for consideration of matters of concern to Scottish health sciences libraries and to facilitate a platform for librarians to discuss these matters. To this end ASHSL organises study days and special meetings designed to bring members together. The content of these days is important but arguably even more important is the informal 'networking' inherent at the meetings.

The ASHSL Committee also acts as a vehicle through which the collective voice of members can be channelled. If there are new 'national' guidelines, initiatives or standards, then comments and questions can be raised via the ASHSL Committee, many of whom are also members of other, national committees. As a result, the Scottish view of events is widely disseminated. ASHSL also has a long history of involvement in the encouragement of co-operation and the sharing of resources. The *ASHSL Union List of Journals* has proved invaluable over many years. At a recent discussion day, there are now moves afoot to make this list accessible via the Web.

ASHSL also provided the impetus for the recent review of library and information service provision in the NHS in Scotland headed up by Dr Graham Buckley from the Scottish Council for Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education. ASHSL managed to secure funding for the project from SLIC (The Scottish Library Information Council). A copy of the draft report has just been made available to ASHSL members.

During 1997, ASHSL has been looking at its relationship with other LIS groups which is really why I am writing this article. I am the Scottish representative on the LfN Committee and have recently been co-opted on to the ASHSL Committee, as LfN and nursing representative. Thus the idea is that I am the 'link body', ensuring that information flows between the two committees.

There has been a proposal at a recent AGM to change the name of the Association to the 'Association of Scottish Health Care Librarians and Information Scientists' or something similar.

Alison Aiton is Fife Campus Librarian at the University of Dundee

THE ASSOCIATION OF WELSH HEALTH LIBRARIANS

Introduction

The Association was established in 1981 by a group of librarians from the Health Service and Universities within the Principality, providing library and information services to health personnel. There have been many changes in the NHS in the last few years, and AWHL provides a united voice for all health information librarians in Wales.

AWHL has around 40 member institutions which include libraries manned by one librarian to libraries with eleven or more staff. Officers and members of the AWHL are elected at the AGM and consist of five committee members, plus five officers - Chair; Deputy Chair; Secretary; Treasurer/Membership Secretary, and Newsletter Editor.

The committee meets to discuss issues of concern to AWHL as well as to arrange courses and meetings for our members.

Aims

AWHL's most important aims are to raise the standard of library and information services offered to health personnel in Wales and to improve the conditions and career structure of librarians providing these services.

Benefits of joining AWHL

- * New Member's Pack
- * *AWHL Newsletter*
- * *Union List of Journals* (lists the journals titles from holdings of AWHL member institutions)
- * approx. 4 meetings a year
- * opportunity for continuing professional education
- * support from library colleagues across Wales

For further information contact the Secretary:

Joanna Grey-Lloyd, BA(Hons)
(Librarian)

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Glan Hafren NHS Trust

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The Friars, Friars Road

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E-mail: HYPERLINK mailto:jjglol@gwent.nhs.gov.uk

For a membership form contact the Membership Secretary/Treasurer:

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*

CORE LISTS OF NURSING BOOKS

Jim Moore of King George Hospital, Ilford, and member of the LjN Committee, has been working hard for the last few months producing a Core list of nursing books. The list is expected to be of particular use to librarians new to the health and nursing field and to trained nursing staff. It has received input from librarians and nursing staff and will be fully annotated. Publication, which is hoped to be later this year, will be supported by *Libraries for Nursing*, the *Health Libraries Group* and the *Medical Information Working Party*.

John Lancaster, University of Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff in association colleagues from the Department of Information Services and Ann Ryall Davies, Director of Professional services at the Welsh National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting and Tomlinson Booksellers have just produced *Books for nurses and midwives: a core guide to collection development*. Copies are being distributed to health libraries.

We hope to carry reviews of both of these lists in a future issue.

6TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE IN UTRECHT

CALLING ALL NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH LIBRARIANS
6th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries, Utrecht, the Netherlands, 22-27 June 1998

Libraries without limits: changing needs - changing roles

The programme for the conference is now almost complete. You will find a number of interesting papers and posters directly related to nursing. Other areas of interest are consumer health information, user education, distance learning, evidence-based medicine, internet resources, library performance, copyright and cooperation. There will also be a large number of continuing education courses related to these topics.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP FOR NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH?

On Wednesday, 24 June it will be possible for special interest groups to meet. If you are interested in meeting other nursing and allied health librarians, contact me as soon as possible. I would also like ideas on the form and content of this session. Are you just interested in meeting and talking to librarians in the same field, or would you like a theme for the meeting? If so, what?

Looking forward to hearing from you, and to seeing you in Utrecht!

Patricia Flor

Member of the International Programme Committee
EAHIL Conference, Utrecht 1998

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ANOTHER STUDY DAY?

Another study day which may interest some readers: *The Society of Genealogists* are holding a study day about the records of the medical and nursing professions. Speakers will cover the collections of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, the London Metropolitan archives and their value to family historians. The event will take place on 8 August 1998. Contact the Society at 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA, telephone 0171 251 8799, for more details.

REVIEWS

WHITE PAPER - THE NEW NHS

The New NHS. Cm3807. London: HMSO ISBN 0101380720. Price £12.50

The Government's vision for the NHS was launched in December. It promises a new 24 hour helpline staffed by nurses, all GP surgeries are to be connected to the NHS Net. Any patient suspected as having cancer is to be able to see a specialist within 2 weeks. The document emphasises quality and promises a new National Institute for Clinical Excellence to draw up guidelines based on evidence and these are to be evidence-based National Service Frameworks to ensure access to services. There will be quality standards in long-term service agreements that will replace contracts between Health Authorities and NHS Trusts. There will be a statutory requirement for NHS Trusts to maintain quality. There will be a re-organisation of the NHS. There was no promise of funds to ensure services can maintain quality and no promise of cradle to grave care.

There is also an executive summary available free from Dept. of Health, PO Box 410, Wetherby LS23 7LL.

Also the summary can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.official-documents.co.uk/document/doh/newnhs/newnhs.html>

Paul Moorbatch

Directory of Medical and Health Care Libraries in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland 1997-8. 10th ed. Compiled by William H. Forrester. London: Library Association. ISBN 1856042197. Price £35.00. Available from Bookpoint Ltd, 39 Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4TD.

This directory lists libraries in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, veterinary science and some medical charities. There are 851 entries.

Each entry consists of name, address, tel. and fax numbers, size of holdings, classification scheme, computer services offered and notes special collections. The entries are in alphabetic order of institution and there are indexes of town/city and of hospitals as well as a list of librarians.

This is a straightforward and useful directory and is well produced.

JOURNAL NEWS

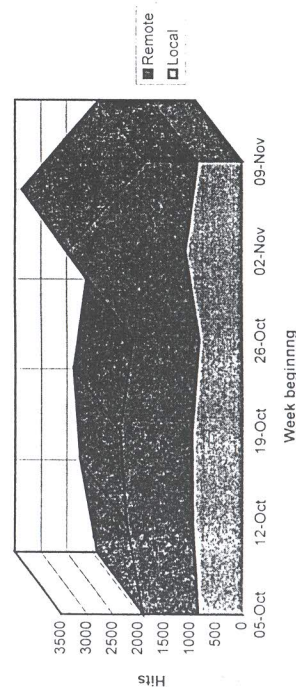
Maternal and Child Health Journal began publication in 1997. It is quarterly and published by Plenum at \$175. It has research papers on health services for mothers and children and there are also short reports, reviews and letters.

EBSCO Subscription Services have recently produced a listing of over 450 *Journals in Nursing 1997*. It is arranged alphabetically by title, with an indication of frequency, ISSN, publisher and price. It includes titles not listed in the *International Nursing Index* or on the CINAHL web page. The list indicates which journals are recommended for purchase by the Brandon-Hill *Selected list of Nursing Books and Journals*, 1996-7 edition. Also listed are the top 50 nursing titles based on the total number of orders received by EBSCO Subscription Services. But remember, this is an American list. Copies may be obtained from Judy Castleberry at judy@ebsco.com.

British Nursing Index (BNI), an extremely current database of citations from over 220 nursing and allied health journals, has just completed its first year. The data base is compiled by the libraries of Bournemouth University, Poole and Salisbury NHS Trusts and the Royal College of Nursing.

During *National Libraries Week*, 3-7 November 1997 BNI was made available free over the internet. Just under 4000 people accessed BNI by internet that week, compared to a normal average of around 2000 per week. In 1998 CD-ROM and internet versions will be available through SilverPlatter Information. BNI welcome feedback from colleagues and users.

Hits to the BNI Web pages Oct / Nov 1997



Battling with Books by Margie Mason.

Available from The Library, Anglia Polytechnic University, Victoria Road South, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1LL. Price £2.00 inc.p&p, cash or cheque with order

This book is aimed at library assistants and gives practical guidance on health and safety. It advises on posture, lifting, unloading packages, use of trolleys, shelving safely and how to work safely at a visual display unit. There is a useful section on dealing with aggressive readers.

This is a useful booklet and its contents should be read and implemented by both library assistants and qualified staff. Given the legal responsibility for staff welfare, it is essential reading. There are 28 pages with a good quality cover and spiral binding. For a mere £2 this book is excellent value and is thoroughly recommended.

P. Moorbath

COCHRANE LIBRARY TRAINING

Hello, my name is Ruth Frankish and I have recently started work as the Cochrane Library Trainer, based at the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination in York. This is just to let you know that I am in post and available for training sessions for librarians, in the first instance, would imaging that an advanced course would last for a whole day and would cover:-

- Background to the Cochrane Library and Cochrane Collaboration
- Searching, simple and advanced
- What information is contained on the Cochrane Library
- Basic interpretation of results
- Keeping up to date

I will be able to travel to sites convenient to you for training, but it would be necessary for you to arrange a venue and equipment needed for the training sessions. It would also be necessary for there to be a minimum number of people to train. The alternative is for people to attend sessions that I shall be arranging in York.

Please get in touch if you are interested in Cochrane Library training, either in York or nearer to home. I look forward to hearing from you.

Ruth Frankish, Cochrane Library Trainer
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NHS REGIONAL LIBRARIANS GROUP / UMSLG RESEARCH BURSARY 1998

The NHS Regional Librarians Group (RLG) and the University Medical School Librarians Group (UMSLG) wish to promote a culture within which existing practice and ideas are more frequently challenged. We are awarding a bursary of up to £1,500 to support a research project in the broad area of health care librarianship and information work.

Applications are invited from practising librarians, students and others throughout the United Kingdom who plan to undertake research in 1998. The project will be assessed on methodology, innovation, likely practical value and applicability. For example, a study could focus on the information needs of a specific group of health care professionals or a particular patient group. Comparative studies, costings or modelling studies would also be relevant.

The timetable for the receipt of applications, the decision-making process and the award of the bursary for 1998 is as follows:

Applications should be submitted not later than Friday 17th April 1998

The successful applicant will be notified not later than 10th June 1998

The successful applicant should submit a report to the convenor of the RLG Research Panel by November 1998

The administration of the 1998 bursary is being handled by Judy Palmer, convenor of the Research Panel of the Regional Librarians Group, who will be happy to give further information and advice and details of the application procedure.

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