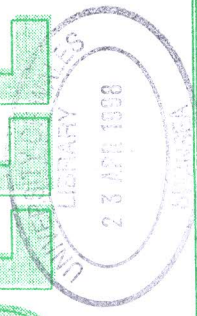


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Libraries for
NURSING

BULLETIN



Volume 18 Number 1 Spring 1998

- Research and Practice
- Internet Links
- Mailing Lists
- Journal News
- Events

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LfN BULLETIN

Vol.18, No.1, Spring 1998

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EDITORIAL

Regular readers will notice some differences in this issue of the *Bulletin*. We are in the process of reviewing the design and format of the *Bulletin* and though it might have been more impressive to change everything at once we are going for a step-by-step approach. This issue the cover is different. This may not be what it will look like in future. We would, as always, welcome your comments. If any of you are interested in offering design suggestions please let us know.

Our priority is always to produce a journal, which while not perhaps academically weighty, will always contain material that is at least worth reading. This issue features a description of the Joint LfN / UHSL Study Day on the use of research in practice. If you enjoyed that study day, you will also find information this issue on the next one - if we manage to publish in time. There seem to be so many courses, conferences, and study days so we have included a list of some of them. Another good idea for an article: why not write up the next event you attend and send us a brief report?

Our second main feature is a short article by Linda Ward and Janet Rolinson on the internet as an information source for community nurses. This is based on Linda's Masters dissertation and is a good example of the kind of article we would like to include more often.

Also included this issue is news about the recently established *lis-nursing* Mailbase discussion list. Karen Smith, LfN's Marketing guru, is the person in charge of the list. We have included details of how you can join. The list will only be successful however if people use it - to raise issues or share thoughts or seek information.

There's also a fair amount of information this issue about new web pages relating to nursing. Like so much of the internet, these tend to be good in parts. We are not recommending them in the sense of saying they are better than others but rather that if you don't know about them you might find something useful in there somewhere. The Cyber-Nurse pages, for example, range from Chat Rooms to links to journals, in colours garish to pastel shades.

The Editors

P.S. Your contributions are always welcome. Did we say that already?

INFORMED HEALTH LIBRARY SERVICES: USING RESEARCH TO SHAPE OUR PRACTICE

Report of the Joint LfN / UHSL Study Day at University of Northumbria at Newcastle (UNN) : 20 November 1997

This Study Day was the second jointly organised by *Libraries for Nursing* (LfN) and the *Universities Health Sciences Librarians* (UHSL). The research reputation of the UNN's Department of Library and Information Management (DILMS) and their recent work in relation to health libraries made Newcastle an appropriate choice of venue. The Department provided three of our five speakers.

The morning session was Chaired by Sue David on behalf of LfN. She pointed out that the new *Library and Information Commission* (LIC) Research Strategy and the recently published *NHS Guidelines - LIS and Information Services* (HSG (97)47) both see the library as a key resource, an integral part of the research process and a means of assisting the translation of evidence/research into practice.

Linda Banwell - Overview of Library and Information Science

After a welcome from Ian Winkworth our first speaker was Linda Banwell with an overview of library and information science research. When she asked what she should talk about she had been told to convince her audience that they should be involved in research and use research findings to make decisions.

The themes of her presentation were: what is LIS research, what does the Department of Library and Information Management at UNN do, what are the implications/lessons for DILMS research for practitioners, and how do we bridge the practice - research gap?

Linda pointed out that the themes and methodologies for investigation are similar across domains and that information management is more than 'just' libraries. By way of example she outlined a current study investigating school Governors' Information Needs. The GINN project is a 2-year BL funded study of the interface between information and decision making, looking at the information flow of school governing bodies.

As usual with research a number of questions needed to be answered. What were the goals of stakeholders in the project? Schools wanted to know how they were doing, how to convert their ideas into reality? What do we, as researchers, do with data to facilitate their goals? Does information make a difference? Which information makes most difference? Just as nurses may use colleagues as a major source of information though they know they may not be the best one, so, for school governors, the most used source is the headteacher - who also may not be 'best' source. There may be a gap between what information you need and what you've got. So

schools need to promote a range of activities, documentation and training of, and for, school governors in order to promote an information culture. Governors need to be encouraged to use information in their decision making.

IMPEL2 Project : Impact on people of electronic libraries-Catherine Edwards

The second speaker was Catherine Edwards, who talked about the IMPEL 2 project on the impact on people of electronic libraries. Her theme was monitoring organisational and cultural change in the world of the electronic library. Catherine gave us an overview of the project, its scope, the methodologies employed and its aims which were to underline the change processes underway in libraries, to support future decision making and to provide a knowledge base for information professionals. Catherine showed how IMPEL 2 sought to look at change processes in libraries from a human point of view. One of the project's outcomes has been that it has helped members of the higher education library community address and cope with an unparalleled period of change.

Catherine drew out the issues facing nursing education which have emerged in the course of the project she emphasised that the impact of the changes in nursing education had been a major issue for the HE sector over the past few years. New challenges included managing multisite operations, incorporating different cultures, unequal access, torn loyalties, coping with contracting issues, staff training needs, harmonisation of services and changing management structures and responsibilities. New opportunities were also clearly identified during the project, these included developments in resource based learning, improved training opportunities, larger organisations offering better career prospects and wider experience, improved systems and the chance to develop new roles. Catherine's talk gave those attending the study day an insight into the scope and implementation of a large scale national research project and how its outcomes could have a direct relevance to how professional librarians function, practice and cope within the environment of change in which we all work.

Sue Capel - Funding and delivery of Library and Information Services for Nurses

Sue Capel, also of DILMS, outlined the research she was commissioned to carry out by the LINC Health Panel into the changes in funding and delivery of library services to nursing since the incorporation of nurse education into higher education. The project had 4 aims:

- help 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 identify good practice for dissemination

The report methodology consisted (in the best tradition of evidence-based librarianship) of a literature review and structured interviews with key people in the HE and the NHS Trust sectors in North East England. The main body of the research consists of an interpretation of qualitative and quantitative data from a questionnaire survey conducted in England, Scotland and Wales.

Sue indicated that the key themes which emerged were the following:

- 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 point of need
- adequate user education support systems
- the development of joint working programmes for the networking of information systems.

The importance and timeliness of the research was pointed in a quote from a Head of Nursing in a Trust hospital:

"We owe it to nursing in general, we just cannot afford not to have an educated workforce, whether they are students or whether they are 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".

Jane Farmer - Nurses and the net - research into practice.

Jane Farmer, from Robert Gordon University, talked about her project on the information needs of nurses working in remote areas and how the Internet could be exploited to meet these needs.

Nursing colleagues in the Western Isles rarely meet. They are remote from libraries, remote from training, remote from authority, remote from each other. The questions that Jane and her colleagues were seeking answers to were:

- what are the information needs?
- how much did they know about IT?
- was information an issue?
- how did they feel about using the Internet?
- what did their managers feel about Internet use?

There were difficulties in getting hard data on how many nurses there were but in the end they tracked down 71 of various types. The nurses were asked which information sources they had consulted in the last 6 months. Sources included people (nurses, doctors), journals (91%), books (84%), professional organisations (30%), Medline (8%), CINAHL (6%) and Cochrane 2% (i.e. one person). The response rate was 91%. Of the respondents only 10% had ever used a CD-ROM (and these were all studying for qualifications) and one had access to the Internet. We don't know what their information questions were about or the quality or fit of the responses. 70% had used a hospital library, 25% got information from a Health Centre, 8% from a professional library, 28% used other libraries (e.g. college/University).

The nurses wanted local resource bases as it was difficult for them to travel to libraries. They did not have a 'picture' of the information world and did not know what was available, they also found it difficult to assess the relevance of information. Of the group 91% had little IT experience, 60% had never used a computer, 35% had a computer at home and 10% used a computer on a daily basis at work. The team carried out a number of successful workshops for nurses and other primary healthcare staff (51 attended) with hands-on experience of using the Internet.

Telephone interviews were carried out with managers who were generally enthusiastic about nurses using the Internet although they did not think funding would be available and wanted evidence of cost effectiveness. They were concerned that training for nurses must be practical and should take place in the workplace looking at current working problems. They wanted 'product champions'. The managers' perceptions of nurses was that they do not use research. Jane saw the information elicited by the project as ammunition for evidence based lobbying.

Veronica Fraser - Funding for research

After lunch and a quick peruse of the UHSL Web Page and the Cambridge Medical Books exhibition, the afternoon session was chaired by Liz Fairclough for UHSL. The only platform speaker was Veronica Fraser, NHS Libraries Advisor, who began the afternoon by outlining how we might go about attracting funding to carry out our own research. She suggested several useful starting points: Library and Information Commission (LIC), the British Library Research and Innovation Centre (BLRIC) and the Library and Information Research Group (LIRC). The Library Association is able to assist with the formulation of a proposal and with the dissemination of the results of a project. Some groups offer small sums to help support research (e.g. NHS Regional Librarians Group and UMSLG). Veronica gave participants a useful checklist of points to consider when applying for funding as competition is fierce:

- link the proposal to the priorities and strategies of the organisation approached and use their language and themes in the application.
- follow instructions very closely
- start with a summary outlining the research and why it is important
- make the aims and objectives clear and specific
- produce a concise proposal

- check for clarity when the proposal complete
- try to include partners in the proposal who may be outside the library
- if at first you don't succeed submit your proposal to someone else !

These practical tips were greatly appreciated.

Discussion

The remaining session of the afternoon was devoted to a lively panel discussion involving all the speakers and encouraging contributions from participants. Topics covered included costing research, exit strategies, disseminating results and putting research into practice, library services available to researchers, convergence of IT & library services, importance of co-operation between higher education and the NHS (at all levels including governmental), the multiple role of librarians and finally some discussion as to how to follow-up the recent HSG.

Evaluation

It is customary for LAN to issue evaluation forms at their study days. Of the 60 that were distributed 29 were returned. The overall score for the day was 8 out of ten. Some people liked the room, some people did not; some people liked the food, some did not; some people found the panel discussion interesting and others did not. The overall impression seems to be that most people felt that they had had a worthwhile day and had found something useful, interesting, or even enjoyable in it. As for the weather, the taxis, the train service to London.

Compiled from notes by Sue David, Sean Farrelly, Roisin Gwyer, Dave Hiscock, Maurice Wakeham

INTERNET: AN INFORMATION SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY NURSES?

Linda Ward and Janet Rolinson

Introduction

Evidence-based practice and the growing importance of information in healthcare (1) make a heavy demand on nursing staff to keep themselves informed. Nurses need to assess the research evidence. This is a particular problem for nurses who are community based and may not have the same access to traditional information sources as hospital based staff.

This research project (2) looked at the availability of the Internet to community nurses working in Nottingham and their opinion of its potential in the evaluation and dissemination of information to support evidence based practice. The research hypothesis stated that access to the Internet was rare but there is a case for making the benefits of the 'information superhighway' available to community nurses.

Recognition of this is implied by the *pr@xis* project, jointly funded by Nottingham Community Health Trust (NCHT) and Trent Focus. This was to provide an Internet terminal at the Health Promotion Resource Centre at the Trust headquarters offering Internet access to practising community nurses and making this study relevant and timely.

Focus of the study

Community nurses who reported having used the Internet were interviewed, largely in their workplace. Open, unstructured interviews meant that the topics for discussion were not predetermined and this 'grounded theory' approach had the advantage of allowing items of importance to the interviewees to emerge. The tape recorded interviews were later analysed and themes identified.

Six professional groups were approached:

- health visitors
- midwives
- district nurses
- community psychiatric nurses
- practice nurses
- school nurses

These represented a range of nurses information needs, from clinical skills to health education. These groups also support the health of the local population across all ages.

The number of practising community health professionals with access to the Internet was an unknown quantity initially, although anecdotal evidence (or lack of it) suggested that the numbers involved were likely to be small. Internet users were invited to take part via a letter sent to the majority of community nurses identified using internal community trust records, by contacting managers in other trusts and by writing to practice nurses in 10% of GP practices.

Outcomes

The total number of community nurses approached was 742. The number of responses was 220, approximately 30%. Of these, 28 (13%) reported having Internet experience. 66% of non-users expressed interest in doing so.

A Chi-squared test showed no statistical difference in response rates between the professional groups.

Access to the Internet was either through a home computer, a course of study or (in only two cases) via work in a higher education institution. No evidence was found that Internet connection was widely available in GP surgeries or health centres.

Conclusions

The purpose of this research was to find out if nurses perceived any benefit from using the Internet. The conclusion must be that the very small number

of people who have used it do see a benefit. Increased experience is likely to confirm the Internet as an information source of growing importance. Motivation to use it (and access) was largely confined to those who were studying and they were very positive about its benefits for their professional development. There were some who were not studying but just as positive about the Internet. For those who were not so positive, the Internet was not usually perceived as a tool for work. One of the conclusions of recent research in the Western Isles (3) was that raising awareness of the Internet and its potential is an important function of research such as this. This study supported this finding. Discussing the Internet and its possibilities lead to several respondents reflecting on and realising how the Internet could be of value; even people who declared little interest in it as a tool for work. One practice nurse began to think of mechanisms by which funding for an Internet terminal at her practice could be obtained.

The Internet has been criticised for not having an obvious and easily accessible critical mass of activity related to nursing. It is probable that as this develops, the motivation for nurses to use the Internet will increase.

Until its value has been established, trusts are not in a position to justify the expenditure of providing Internet access widely. However, unless nurses have access that value cannot be established. Installing a connection via a commercial Internet service provider at a relatively low price makes it possible for such evaluations to take place. There is no doubt that the potential as a communications tool is recognised by community nurses and in some cases welcomed.

Quoting one interviewee: 'A cultural shift is now needed. Nurses are used to updating, reading journals etc. and using the Internet is one step on. Also: 'Familiarity will increase use, especially as the interfaces become more user friendly'. There is an increasing trend towards doing things electronically. Care planning and dependency information are already computerised in hospitals. One or two generations on, nurses may log on rather than read [print] journals'.

Recommendations

For community trusts introducing a pilot Internet service, ease of use for busy professionals should be the principle aim. This can be accomplished by:

- promoting the service across a broad range (geographical as well as professional) of potential users
- promoting access to quality information and current research by, for example, 'bookmarking' useful sites and developing current awareness alerts
- having a pre-booking system
- offering training appropriate to users needs, bearing in mind that these will vary
- provide support materials e.g. written guides, for users
- offering a mediated as well as end-user service

The Internet is an addition to broad library collections for browsing and should not be seen as a cheap alternative.

Mechanisms should be in place to support information gathering via the Internet e.g. an inter-library loans system for obtaining the text of bibliographic references.

In the longer term, trusts should audit the use of the Internet. This should include a study of its impact on the use of research evidence in clinical practice.

If a benefit is established by such an audit, Internet access should be expanded geographically, ideally at community nurses work bases.

Its use as a communications tool, locally and more widely, will then be possible and the benefits of this should be considered when such an expansion is under review.

References

Appleby, John, Kieran Walshe and Chris Ham. *Acting on the evidence*. Birmingham: National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, 1995.

Ward, Linda M. *The Internet: an information source for community nurses?* MSc Dissertation, Department of Information and Library Studies, Loughborough University, 1997.

Farmer, Jane C. (et al.). *Improving access to information for nursing staff in remote areas: the potential of the Internet and other networked information resources*. Aberdeen: School of Information and Media, Robert Gordon University, 1997.

The *pr@xis* service, providing Internet access for primary and community health care professionals in Nottingham, is based at:

The Health Promotion Resource Centre

Nottingham Community Health Trust

Linden House, 261, Beechdale Rd.

Nottingham NG8 3EY

Tel: 0115 9428750

email: desconway@innotts.co.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the *Libraries for Nursing* sub-group of the *Health Libraries Group* will be held this year at 11.30 a.m. on April 17th 1998 at the Wolfson Technological Resources Centre, Main Library, University of Edinburgh, George Square, Edinburgh. All members are welcome. See page 15 for further details.

LIS-NURSING

The list has been established by *Libraries for Nursing* to provide a forum to facilitate discussion by library and information professionals who are involved in nursing and midwifery. We hope you will encourage your colleagues to join the list and make use of it.

Joining and Leaving lis-nursing

Joining lis-nursing

To join lis-nursing send the following command, (typing your own personal names instead of firstname(s) and lastname)

join lis-nursing firstname(s) lastname

as the only text in the body of a message addressed to:

mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

Leaving lis-nursing

To leave lis-nursing send this command:

leave lis-nursing

as the only text in the body of a message addressed to:

mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

To get more information

For any queries relating to the list, contact the owner at:

lis-nursing-request@mailbase.ac.uk

For general information relating to Mailbase, contact the Mailbase Helpline at

mailbase-helpline@mailbase.ac.uk

NEW NURSING WEBSITE ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

The following was discovered on a mailing list. Unfortunately your editors have forgotten which one!! We will happily acknowledge the source when we discover what it was. Let us know if you find any of this information useful.

CYBER-NURSE

A new and fresh Nursing site has just opened on the WWW!!!! It is brought to you by long-time residents of VirtualNurse..Vee Tac and Dark Angel, who have gathered all their experience and skills to bring to you this wonderful new site!!!!

CYBER-NURSE has so much to offer you already!!!!

LIVE CHATROOMS

CYBER-NURSE is starting out with 5 running chats moderated by well versed and experienced hosts.

THE CRAIC

This room is moderated by Mary from England, and co-hosted by Jersey's own Anneliese....together these two will make your head spin!!! The Craic (Galic for "Fun and Laughter") is fashioned after the idea of a "Cyber-Pub" and is a great place for you to relax after a hard day at work!!!

NURSING LIFE CHAT

This chat comes to us live from Singapore, and is moderated by Merlion, a truly colorful character who will keep you entertained with his many stories. Merlion is mostly known for his extensive music collection, and for his previous chat.. "Stargate".

BRUCE'S INFORMAL AIDS CHAT

Bruce's chat is already proving to be a wonderful place to go for information, help, advice and support. He is an AIDS educator, and is molding his chat to be an extension of his 8 years of public speaking on the topic of AIDS. Bruce is planning an upcoming forum on "Caring for a Loved One with Aids" ..date and time will be announced soon.

SLEEPWALKER'S CRITICAL CARE CHAT

Moved in it's entirety, Vee and Da have re-awakened this lively "late-night" chat at CYBER-NURSE. Conversations here can go anywhere from very silly to very serious....depending on the mood of those who arrive as the night goes on.

FORUMS CHAT

This is the room where there will be scheduled chat-events that revolve around many different topics. Generally Nursing related, forums are informational and a great place to get serious questions answered and learn new things about all

kinds of topics. Forum topics, dates and times, will be announced well in advance of each event. If you've never seen or been to a forum, take a look at Vee's Forum Archive page, where her past forums are posted to be used and referred to as reference.

CYBER-PSYCH CHAT

This room is hosted by MJ, a 20 year veteran of Psychiatric Nursing. Take advantage of her knowledge, her hospitality, and her sense of humor. This is a wonderful place to find Psych-specialty information, as well as have some fun. Definitely one of the nicest places on the web to go.

FEATURES

The many "features" of CYBER-NURSE are all interesting, fun, and informative. They include such things as Vee's "Cardiac Chambers", The Painmaster's Discussion Group, as well as "Vee and DA's JUKEBOX" and the "CYBER-NURSE Postcard Site"... The complete list is at the "Doorway" to CYBER-NURSE. This list will be expanded upon regularly.

CYBER-TOYS

DA loves to hunt the web for new things for chatters to try out. This listing, again at the "Doorway" page is where you will find the "loot" from his latest quests!!

The Doorway to this new Nursing site is

<http://www.cyber-nurse.com>

JOURNAL NEWS

The *Lancet* has been launched on the Internet in full text form as from 20 March. It is known as *Lancet Interactive* and licences granting free access are given to subscribers of the print version. One simply registers with a subscriber number and authentication code sent to you by the publisher. *Lancet Interactive* is found at <http://www.thelancet.com>

The *British Journal of Community Health Nursing* has been renamed *British Journal of Community Nursing*. The volume number continues the previous sequence.

Practising Midwife is a new journal that incorporates *Modern Midwife*. Subscription is £29.90 per year. It contains short practical articles.

Midwives Journal is another new midwifery journal. It replaces *Midwives*. The subscription is £60 per year. It has short articles including some of a general political nature.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE?

Evaluating health care information resources on the Internet

Friday 17 April 1998

Wolfson Technological Resources Centre, Main Library, University of Edinburgh, George Square

Cost: £30.00 (including VAT)

This is a study day organised jointly by ASHSL and L.N., a subgroup of the Library Association Health Libraries Group. Incorporated in the day will be the Annual General Meeting of Libraries for Nursing - members will receive papers relating to the AGM under separate cover.

PROGRAMME

10.00 - 10.30	Coffee & Registration
10.30 - 11.00	Sue Walsh, OMNI Overview: <i>Evaluating Internet Resources</i>
11.00 - 11.30	Rod Ward, University of Sheffield, School of Nursing & Midwifery Creating "Nursing & Health Care Resources on the Net"
11.30 - 12.15	Parallel Sessions L.N. AGM Ann Wales, Glasgow Royal Infirmary University NHS Trust <i>Evaluated Medical Resources</i> Followed by: Maureen Thom, The Development Group <i>Evaluated Management Resources</i>
12.15 - 13.30	Lunch
13.30 - 14.00	Rod Ward, University of Sheffield <i>Evaluated Nursing Resources</i>
14.00 - 14.30	Donald Mackay, Health Promotion Library Scotland, HEBS <i>Evaluated Consumer Health Resources</i>
14.30 - 15.15	Ann Wales and Maureen Thom will repeat their earlier presentations for L.N. members who attended the AGM Other delegates will have the opportunity to view some of the recommended Web sites in a dedicated training suite
15.15 - 16.00	Tea and further opportunity to view Web sites
16.00	Close

Dorothy McGinley, Librarian, Fife Health Board, Springfield House, CUPAR, Fife KY15 5UP
(Tel: 01334 656200 Ext 513; Fax: 01334 657579)

21 April 1998 HLG/RSM Meeting. Medical Information 2000 : publishing and libraries in the next century.
Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M
£45 HLG/RSM members £65 non members.
Contact Mrs Bronwyn Stirling, Academic Department, Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M. Fax 0171 290 2977

13 May 1998 Visit to Royal Society of Medicine library.
1 Wimpole Street London W1M. 2pm-4pm. Numbers limited to 16.
To reserve a place contact Gillian Edwards 0181 312 6220/6055
e-mail gillynip@arcadia.idiscover.co.uk

15 May 1998 HLG/BMIS Study day Advances in clinical knowledge management,
Council Room, University College London, Gower Street, London 10-5pm. £35
HLG/BMIS members £50 non-members.
Booking form (after April 17th) available from
Gillian Edwards 0181 312 6220/6055
email gillynip@arcadia.idiscover.co.uk

4 June 1998 Study day- Research for the uninitiated.
SchHARR,
Regent Court, 30 Regent Street, Sheffield. £50 HLG members £65 non members.
Details Jane Farmer e-mail j.farmer@rgu.ac.uk

10 June 1998 Study day- Everything you ever wanted to know about the NHS and Royal Colleges, Societies, Institutes and Associations.
Quarry House Leeds
£50 HLG members £65 non-members.
Details Gillian Edwards 0181 312 6220/6055
e-mail gillynip@arcadia.idiscover.co.uk

2-4 September 1998 HLG Conference . First aid for the frontline: information for primary care,
Lancaster University.
Details on HLG web page and from Frances Collett, Conferences, LA
Enterprises 0171 636 7543
e-mail events@la-hq.org.uk

THE GETTING OF WISDOM

WISDOM 98 is a project aimed at nursing professionals in primary care. Maybe you would like to point some of your nursing colleagues at the WISDOM 98 project.

WISDOM is a multi-professional, collaborative learning environment. Our facilitators are drawn from managerial, health librarian, nursing and medical backgrounds.

The four themes for 98 are:
-basic informatic skills and basic EBP
-advanced evidence based skills and international collaboration
-reflective learning and portfolios
-primary care groups

The WISDOM@mailbase.ac.uk address will be intended as a general discussion area. The aim is to enhance the IT and information handling skills of professionals new to on-line learning environments. We aim to deliver basic material around -e-mail -web browsers -basic html -basic Medline -principles of on-line learning. For those Nurses doing portfolios, we are running a reflective writing course from April 20 1998. This will be invaluable in helping you get those portfolios done. We have experienced nursing, medical and librarian support. Come and follow those of your colleagues who successfully completed WISDOM 98. You can learn at your own pace and put as much commitment in as suits you.

For more information about aspects of the WISDOM course contact:

basic informatics e.a.dolman@sheffield.ac.uk
evidence based practice a.j.orourke@sheffield.ac.uk
reflective learning c.roberts1@sheffield.ac.uk

=====

Chris Roberts
Institute of General Practice and Primary Care
WISDOM Project Facilitator
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REVIEW

Binley's Directory of NHS Management. Corringham, Essex: Beechwood House Publishing. ISSN 09677917. Price £158.50. Available from Beechwood house Publishing Ltd., Grover House, Grover Walk, Corringham, Essex SS17 7LS. For further information you can call Louise Brittain on 01375 644344

This directory is updated three times a year and the subscription includes the 3 issues. All the information is verified from source so it claims an accuracy that NHS handbooks can not achieve. It is compiled in co-operation with the NHS Confederation. It is authoritative and contains contact names, statistics and reference information on the NHS.

- Explanation of NHS structure including charts illustrating the hierarchy and the NHS Executive
- A listing of over 27,000 named NHS managers with job titles and job responsibilities
- Statistics on trust income, expenditure and staff numbers
- Listing for Healthcare Interest Groups
- NHS Circulars and Press Releases
- Maps and indexes.

This is a unique reference work. It does not include hospitals and health centres or numbers of staff employed in individual units. Its great strength in contact names and addresses but surprisingly not e-mails and so should be in any library dealing with the NHS.

GREEN PAPER - OUR HEALTHIER NATION

Our Healthier Nation. Cm3852. London:HMSO. ISSN 0101385226. Price £10.30

The Government puts its views improving health. It proposes a new national contract for health and identifies four areas where health can be improved. They are heart disease and stroke, accidents, cancer and mental health.

It is available on the Internet on <http://www.open.gov.uk/doh/ohn/ohnhome.htm>

A summary booklet is available free from Department of Health, PO Box 410, Wetherby LS23 7LN

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