



SPRING STUDY
DAY:
"HOW DO YOU
MANAGE?"
MANAGEMENT
ISSUES AND
LIBRARIES

For Membership details contact:

Donald MacKay

Membership Secretary
donaldmackay@usa.net



Autumn Study Day 1999:

- 26th November: "WOULD YOU CREDIT IT?"
Accreditation and quality in health libraries"

We're on the WEB!

Visit the Lfn site at :
**[http://www.la-hq.org.uk/
groups/hlg/lfn.html](http://www.la-hq.org.uk/groups/hlg/lfn.html)**

WE NEED YOUR INPUT! INFORMATION FOR SUBMISSION:

If you'd like to submit an article/news item to the Bulletin just
send the document to:

rebecca.davies@swansea.ac.uk or by post to:

Rebecca Davies

Library and Information Centre

University of Wales Swansea

Singleton Park

Swansea SA2 8PP

Any version of WORD or a rtf file is fine. We'd like a greater
number of contributions from Lfn members and any
information on the following themes would be especially
appreciated (short items are very welcome!):

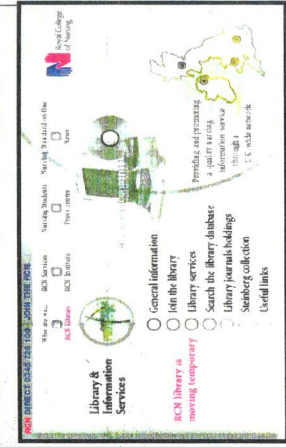
- ⇒ OVIDS full text Nursing Collection – has anyone any
experience of using it or has subscribed?
- ⇒ Summer vacation misery? Any solutions to this long term
problem?

BULLETIN

- 2 JUL 1999

THE RCN LIBRARIES, DEVOLUTION IN ACTION!

The RCN Library Services are devolving. In this issue of the Bulletin we hear from Angela Perret the RCN Librarian in Wales and Enid Forsyth in Scotland. In subsequent issues we'll hear from the other RCN Librarians: in Northern Ireland, and from Jackie Lord the RCN Librarian in London.



The RCN Library web pages: <http://www.rcn.org.uk>

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW LFN CHAIR

REBECCA DAVIES
EMAIL: REBECCA.DAVIES@SWANSEA.AC.UK

In this issue of our first phase of a new look Bulletin I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce myself as the new chair of LFN. I'm the Health Science Librarian based at the University of Wales Swansea and my previous posts include being a Nursing Librarian in rural Wales and the researcher on the EVINCE project (Establishing the Value of Information to Nursing Continuing Education).

In my current post I'm based on the Main Campus of the University at Swansea, and I co-ordinate the services we provide to our students at our 2 main remote sites and the services for post-registration students at Trust sites. As the School at Swansea evolves, so does my role. This year I had my first ever group of predominantly male students as we've started a degree in pre-hospital care for paramedics. The Issue Desk staff couldn't believe that this group were waiting for a teaching session with me! We're also actively trying to promote and develop a part time/distant student service and have recruited a member of staff to take this forward.

This is an exciting time to be involved with LFN, and we have a wide range of new committee members from all over Britain. I hope to bring both my experience of being involved in research and my work with nurses and ...ves to my role within LFN.

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BORROWABLE
BORROWABLE



PERIODICAL LOAN

Items must be returned by the last date stamped below or immediately if recalled.
To renew telephone 01792 295178

RETURN BY

- 5 JUL 2002

U.W.S.

BENTHYCIAD CYLCI

Dylid dychwelyd eitemau cy stampiwyd olaf isod, ne os gofynnir amdanyr
I adnewyddu ffôn 017

THE RCN LIBRARIES A WELSH AND SCOTTISH PERSPECTIVE:

RCN WALES ANGELA PERRET

The RCN's Library Service in Wales has been expanded with the appointment last November of Librarian and Information Services Manager, Angela Perrett.

The range of services now provided include: - 2 JUL 1999

- Literature searching, databases available are British Nursing Index (BNI), CINAHL and the Cochrane Library
- Training sessions in literature searching and internet access
- Enquiry service
- Photocopying service - from the library's stock, journal articles not held by the library can be obtained from other libraries
- Small book, journal and video collections
- Update videos for CPD/PREP
- Guide to useful web pages for nursing

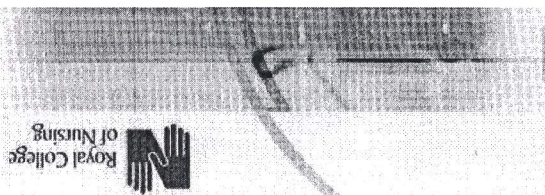
Angela is based at Ty Maeth, available from Monday to Friday, from 9 until 5. Clerical support is provided by Deborah Sadler, who works afternoons from 1 until 5, also based at Ty Maeth.

The library is open for RCN members. There may be times when the library will be not be staffed, as there are only two of us. Members are able to borrow books and videos by post and Angela is happy to help nurses by telephone, fax, e-mail or post if access to Ty Maeth is difficult.

The library service is part of the RCN's UK-wide library service and has back-up from the UK library based in London, the leading nursing library in Europe. RCN members in Wales are still entitled to a full service from the UK library.

Future plans for the library service include extending electronic access to library services, mainly by developing web pages and researching into the information needs of nurses in Wales.

Angela's background is mainly in health library services. Before qualifying in London, she was a library trainee at St. George's Hospital Medical Library, many decades ago when it was still partly at



Hyde Park Corner!!! She has since worked for Bristol Poly, Severn Trust in Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire Health Authority. In 1996 she gained a masters degree in Health Information Management at Aberystwyth, finishing her dissertation only minutes before flying off to Australia for a six-month job exchange, where she was Nursing Liaison Librarian for the University of South Australia, Adelaide.

Deborah has worked for the RCN in Cardiff since 1989 and has been providing clerical support for the library service for the last four years, previous to this she was full-time Personal Assistant to a Professional Officer.

Angela Perrett, Librarian and Information Services Manager, Ty Maeth, King George V Drive East, Cardiff CF4 4XZ.
Tel. 01222 751373. Fax. 01222 761478.
E-mail angela.perrett@rcn.org.uk

RCN SCOTLAND LIBRARY: THE FIRST EIGHTEEN MONTHS ENID FORSYTH

As part of the developments of the UK-wide RCN Library and Information Services this new library is being developed to support the membership in Scotland. It is incredibly exciting to develop a library service from scratch. So many opportunities to develop a service for the 21st Century unhampered by old stock and inherited practices.

Membership has been information hungry from day one and our local motto quickly became "... Aiming Towards Nurses Becoming Information Rich." Many of our enquiries and requests come from members working in the community, general practice and in the private sector. This is not surprising as these nurses generally have less easy access to local health libraries. The private sector includes people working in nursing homes, industry and local authorities and their needs vary from finding information on oral hygiene in the elderly to industrial injuries and exposure to chemicals in the workplace.

Continued overleaf..

RCN LIBRARY SCOTLAND CONTINUED...

As a practitioner living through one of the biggest information revolutions of all time I am painfully aware of so many opportunities and yet so many barriers. Each practising health professional needs fast and easy access to health information on the ward, in the clinic, in the community and at home. I am hoping that the National electronic Library for Health (NeLH) in partnership with those of us in health organisations can make fast easy access a reality for many. Higher education has made great strides in this game by providing its students with excellent database, internet and email facilities.

Geography in Scotland provides us with many challenges. Edinburgh must seem to some in the Islands as remote as London. Much of our work comes in by telephone which makes good telephone skills essential. This may be the only contact we have with a member and if we get it wrong it is bad both for the member and the RCN. One of our plans is to undertake a pilot project to develop good electronic links to quality health information in one of our outlying offices. Other staff are our greatest resource and if some of them can come on board and develop the role of 'barefoot librarians' they will be able to help us move on. The days of professional demarcation in information provision are over. Also, some customers are highly information literate and we can learn much from them. Helping customers find high quality information is in great demand. The RCN Scotland Library in partnership with the Health Education Board for Scotland and the Chief Scientist's Office (Scottish Office), has run a number of highly successful Finding the Evidence Workshops. We plan to take these out on the road and work in partnership with other health librarians in Scotland.

The RCN Library and Information Services are about to launch their UK-wide catalogue on the web. Currently the RCN has both a UK-wide website and an RCN Scotland website and there are links from both these sites to information on all the RCN Libraries in the UK. Colleagues from the London, Belfast Cardiff and Edinburgh libraries are working on a joint strategic plan to map out a streamlined future for the RCN libraries at this time of great opportunity and change.

RCN UK

website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk>

RCN Scotland website:

<http://www.rcnscotland.org>

LFN RESEARCH PROJECT UPDATE: THE ROLE OF THE HEALTH LIBRARY IN RESEARCH-BASED NURSING PRACTICE KAREN BLACKHALL, ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, MAY 1999

I am an information professional working at St. George's Hospital Medical School where the multidisciplinary library serves a large section of nursing staff who work and study there.

The interest in Evidence based healthcare has grown over the last ten years not least because of input and support from the NHS. Interest in research gives prominence to information and those involved with its delivery. This points to an opportunity for health libraries and information services to establish themselves as a crucial component in the effort to deliver improved health care.

Library and information staff are often the main link between the health professional and sources of evidence based material. They are increasingly expected to become involved in critical appraisal and are regularly involved in teaching library-based IT applications. The aim of the project is to identify the needs of a group of nursing staff who wish to understand and apply research to their clinical practice. The project will potentially give greater power to those involved in providing information to such users and help develop effective methods of support and collaboration.

Professional development plays an important role in nurse education and nurses must be seen to be capable of searching for research as well as being able to disseminate the information and put successful outcomes into practice even when they are new and unfamiliar. In this context, the nurse is presented with new opportunities to be proactive and gain recognition as a major contributor to successful outcomes. How nurses feel about these opportunities and whether there are obstacles impeding their use of research as a basis for effective practice will be an interesting point to consider.

The study will look at a group of nursing staff from a variety of backgrounds who have enrolled on the ENB 870 Understanding Research

Course. The students are all post-registration and are a mixture of levels. The questionnaire sent out to them will address the way they approach a search for information and their attitude to research results as a basis for altering clinical practice and treatment methods.

Valuable insights into information needs and usage of a distinct group may reveal strengths and weaknesses in library service provision. An important outcome will be the opportunity for the library to actively take part in the move towards more effective healthcare by providing information and helping to develop skills needed by those involved.

*"Valuable insights into
information needs and
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service provision"*

LECTURERS AND LIBRARY IT; PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

REBECCA DAVIES AND DAVID JENKINS, UWS

As part of the School of Health Science, University of Wales Swansea review of staff IT skills a questionnaire to establish staff aptitude and attitude was developed. Both academic and support staff were sent the questionnaire. As the Librarian with responsibility for the School I was

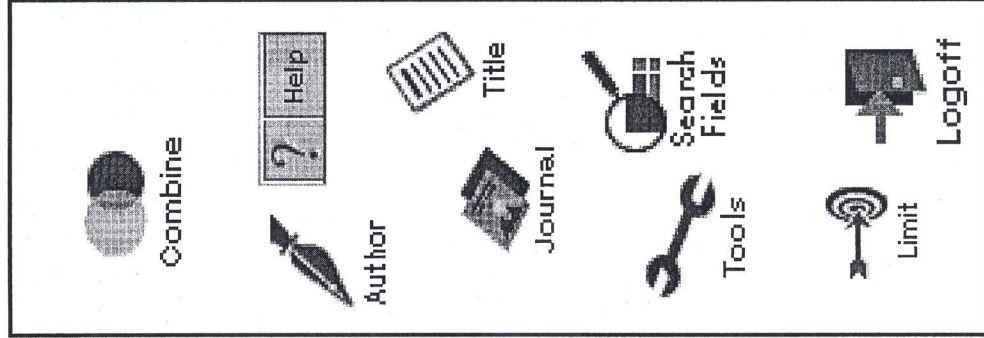
keen to discover not only the level of usage of search tools such as BIDS and CINAHL, but also to discover whether staff considered themselves to be competent or novice users.

The questionnaires were sent to all members of staff, and as we are going to use the results for developing training sessions we decided that they were not going to be anonymous, and this may have helped us achieve our 87% returns rate, as reminders were sent directly to all those who did not respond!

The preliminary results are interesting and indicate a number of staff training needs!

USING CINAHL

The School has subscribed to the OVID/BIDMED version of CINAHL, and the unlimited nature of access has been greatly appreciated by students - and has facilitated larger "hands on" teaching sessions. The service has been very reliable, and the previous problems that we'd encountered with accessing CINAHL, of users being thrown off in the middle



Some of the buttons from OVID internet CINAHL

of a search, or selected items being lost

*"the majority of
staff consider
themselves to be
"Novice users",*

have been solved. Our initial figures indicate that CINAHL is now one of the most widely used databases on campus. However we wanted to discover whether this is as a result of student use or if staff are also finding the BIOMED/OVID version more convenient. Table 1 clearly indicates that the majority of staff consider themselves to be "Novice users", with a remarkably high number (10) indicating that they have never used CINAHL. The strategies that we need to employ for training sessions will include:

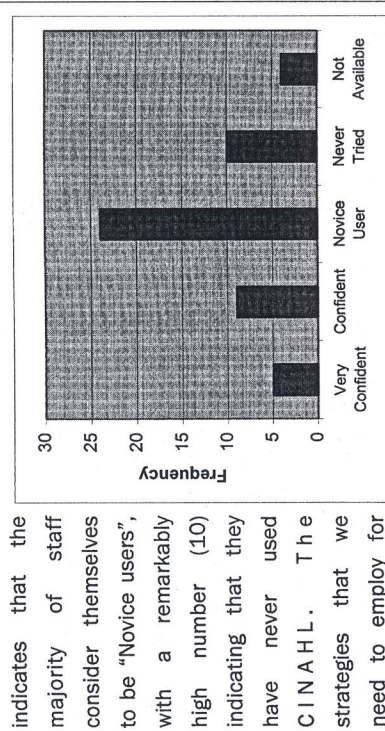


Table 1
Staff usage of CINAHL

- ⇒ Those who consider that CINAHL is not available on their PC need to be shown how to access CINAHL via the web, as all staff have PCs with internet access,
 - ⇒ The value of CINAHL as a tool for staff needs to be demonstrated to the individuals who are yet to use CINAHL and
 - ⇒ Training in the skills needed to become a confident user!
- We can then hope that when we repeat this exercise after training has been provided that the responses from staff will be more like those for the Library Catalogue in Table 2! Here the majority of staff are confident or very confident (using the Library catalogue)"

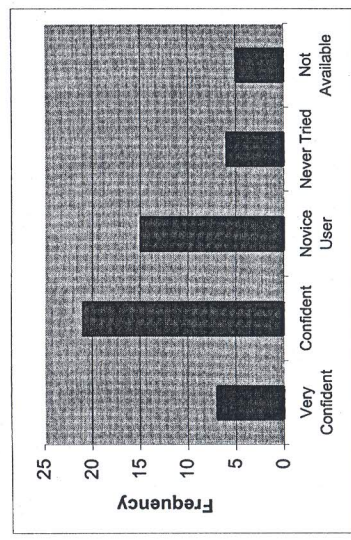


Table 2
Staff usage of the Library Catalogue
levels remain as high!
Rebecca Davies.

IS ASSIA A UNIQUE SOURCE? SIMON CRUMPER, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

(This message was originally posted on the Libraries for Nursing lis-nursing mailbox list)

Those of you with long memories may recall a request for help I posted to this list just prior to Christmas. Three organisations replied with useful information, particularly those good folk up at the Napier University Library. The intention behind this venture was to confirm the usefulness of ASSIA in terms of carrying unique material, compared with other databases in similar subject areas. The topics searched in the field of Mental Health (the terms were chosen by Nurse tutors),

(1) Discharge & Supervision,

Number of relevant references	ASSIA	BNI	CINAHL	PsychLit	Unique to Database
ASSIA (14)	-	3	3	1	10/14
BNI (20)	3	-	7	1	13/20
CINAHL (12)	3	7*	-	2	5/12
PsychLit (4)	1	1	3	-	1/4

(2) Suicide & Railways

Number of relevant references	ASSIA	BNI	CINAHL	PsychLit	Unique to Database
ASSIA (20)	-	7	2	16	4/20
BNI (7)	7	-	2	6	-
CINAHL (2)	2	2	-	2	-
PsychLit (27) *includes 2 books	16	6	2	-	11/27

(3) Psychosocial Interventions,

Number of relevant references	ASSIA	BNI	CINAHL	PsychLit	Unique to Database
ASSIA (25)	-	2	8	-	-
BNI (12)	2	-	8	-	-
CINAHL (65)	8	8	-	-	-
PsychLit (493*) not checked for relevance	-	-	-	-	-

"ASSIA was confirmed as being a beneficial resource containing unique references not found on CINAHL, BNI & PsychLit."

(I doubt I would have thought up 'suicide on the railways' if asked to do so until well into the next millennium), and the resultant references were checked for relevancy by the interested tutor. Initially Freetext searches were carried out as one database did not support a Thesaurus. I then performed (where applicable) subject searches using headings noted from the initial results. As I recall the revised search strategies produced little in the way of relevant references. I also checked the Authors of relevant works in the corresponding databases to ensure that a reference was indeed unique to its particular database. The results of this work are in Tables 1, 2 and 3. ASSIA was confirmed as being a beneficial resource containing numerous unique references not found on CINAHL, BNI & PsycLIT.

HEALTH LIBRARIES GROUP TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP 1999

How Much is the Scholarship?

Up to £500 sterling

How often is it awarded?

It is awarded annually.

Who can apply?

It is open to anyone who is a member of the Health Libraries Group

What is it given for?

The scholarship is for travel to a conference, for research or for a study visit. It is given to enhance the knowledge and development of the profession and to further the continuing professional development of the applicant. It is to be used before the end of 2000.

How do you apply?

An application form is available from:

Susan V Howard, HLG Hon. Secretary, Imperial College School of Medicine,
Charing Cross Campus, The Library, The Reynolds Building, St Dunstan's
Road, London W6 8RP

When is the closing date?

31st December 1999

Who decides and when?

A panel from the HLG committee will decide who should receive the scholarship. The successful applicant will be invited to give a presentation to the HLG committee and to write a report, which will be considered for publication in Health Libraries Review.

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ACCESS TO THE KNOWLEDGE BASE IN SCOTLAND: WHERE ARE WE NOW

JAMES BEATON LIBRARIAN, ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS AND CHAIR OF SHINE

In October 1996, a group was set up by the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) to review the provision of library and information services to the NHS in Scotland. The Group was chaired by Dr Graham Buckley, Director of the Scottish Council for Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education. Concern had been expressed by SLIC's Management Committee, that although organisations such as Scottish Health Information Network (SHINE) were actively involved in representing the interests of health sciences librarians, and undertook resource sharing through initiatives such as SHINE's union list, there was no overall strategic direction for Library Services in the NHS in Scotland.

The principles underpinning the review were

- Clinical effectiveness – access to the knowledge base plays a vital role in the provision of high quality healthcare
- Equality of access which enables staff to deliver high quality healthcare
- Sharing of resources – it was recognised that sharing of resources between higher education institutions, professional bodies and the NHS in Scotland would yield clinical and financial benefits.

The Review Group's Report "Enabling Access to the Knowledge Base of Healthcare" was published in May 1998, at a time of political change in the NHS in Scotland. This change included the publication of the White Paper "Designed to Care" in December 1997, as well as a new Information Management and Technology Strategic Programme in December 1998. These documents recognised the need for access to the knowledge base of healthcare, and as such dovetailed with the key themes and recommendations of the SLIC paper.

The Review Group recognised that there was no overall strategic control of Library Services in the NHS in Scotland; sources of funding were complex and uncertain; electronic access was poor; the skills base for making use of electronic access was poor and that there was no clear career and organisation framework for library and information staff in the NHS in Scotland.

*"up to £500 for
travel to a
conference, for
research or for a
study visit."*

BIOME - THE LIVING HUB THANKS TO JOHN KERRIEMUIR OF OMNI FOR THE INFORMATION

Looking for quality resources in the health, medical and life sciences? BIOME will cover plants, animals, patients, agriculture, pharmaceutical sciences, medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary sciences, agriculture, forestry information, the natural world, clinical sciences, and much, much more...

BIOME will build on the experiences, skills and content of the established OMNI service (providing half a decade of biomedical informatics services), and expand to cover all areas within the health, life and medical sciences.

The service will be coordinated by the University of Nottingham, where OMNI is based, and will be a Hub within the Resource Discovery Network (RDN). The service will be consortium based, and OMNI is joined by a formidable range of high profile partners and content providers from the UK health, medical and life science sectors. These are:

- the Natural History Museum, who will also host the Natural World component of the service
- CTI Biology, at the University of Liverpool
- the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
- Oxford University
- Reading University
- BRIL - the BBSRC Research Institutes Librarians organisation
- the Royal Free Hospital

These partners will bring invaluable subject-based skills, expertise and profile, and are already participating in the development of BIOME.

The hub will offer several different types of services:

1. Catalogues of resource descriptions that can be searched or browsed. These catalogues can also be cross-searched in a variety of arrangements as appropriate to the sub-communities within the life, medical and health sciences. The catalogues will be populated by the project partners, and a combination of paid and volunteer effort.

*"BIOME will build
on the
experiences,
skills and content
of the established
OMNI service"*

*"...it is hoped...as
SHINE celebrates its
25th Anniversary, the
first steps will be taken
towards planning and
implementing an
integrated approach to
health care information
in Scotland"*

The Report recognised six key areas for action;

1. Appointment of a National Co-ordinator to oversee development of services;
2. Formulation and promotion of an information strategy by NHS Trusts within the context of a national strategy;
3. Access to robust electronic networks for all NHS staff;
4. Resource sharing agreements between the NHS, the Higher Education Sector and professional organisations;
5. Co-operation between Information Management and Technology and Library and Information Services personnel in the National Health Service in Scotland to ensure that access to the knowledge base receives the same degree of consideration as management and patient information services;
6. Negotiate access to databases for NHS staff across Scotland.

Currently a small working group consisting of stakeholders from the Scottish Office, Scottish Health Information Network and various other bodies is looking at ways of developing a policy framework for library and information services in Scotland. The advent of the Scottish Parliament will have an impact on this process, and it is hoped that as SHINE celebrates its 25th Anniversary, the first steps will be taken towards planning and implementing an integrated approach to health care information in Scotland.

Sources

Scottish Library and Information Council

Enabling access to the knowledge base of health care

Hamilton : SLIC, 1998

National IM&T Programme Board

Strategic programme for modernising information management

and

technology in the NHS in Scotland Edinburgh : Scottish Office, 1998

Scottish Office. Department of Health

Designed to care : renewing the National Health Service in Scotland

Edinburgh : The Stationary Office, 1998

2. Cross-searching of BIOME maintained catalogues of resource descriptions, and external catalogues that occupy the same subject domains. Through collaborative partnerships, mostly engineered by the two largest BIOME partners, we would envisage a wide range of mutual interoperability efforts over a period of time. OMNI has been in contact with several other catalogue providers in mainland Europe, such as NOVAGate, and is very optimistic about enhanced resource discovery access being made available from BIOME

3. Value-added services. Over the longer term development of BIOME, it is envisaged that other services, such as databases, collections of data, and mirrors of appropriate resources will be made available. Some of these will be "stand alone" services, whereas others, where their content format, type, subject range and storage technology are appropriate, will be integrated into service and catalogue interoperability arrangements. It should be noted that OMNI already maintains several such services, such as the CME database, DERWEB image description catalogue, the official JANET mirror of the NHS IT strategy resource, and the PHI web site.

LIS-NURSING: AN INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

Lis-nursing is now a truly international resource for librarians involved with nursing, midwifery and health care. With 212 members from 12 different countries Libraries for Nursing (and especially Karen Smith the LfN committee member who is the main list owner) can really say that we've made a contribution to world-wide nursing librarianship! If you're not already a member of this quiet, but valuable list Send a message to: mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

with this command in the body of your message:

join *lis-nursing firstname lastname*

Lis-nursing is an opportunity for those of us who are relatively "geographically" isolated, or the only members within our organisation concerned with nursing information, to feel that we are part of a wider community.

*"Lis-nursing...
with 212
members from
over 12 different
countries!"*

*"(the library is)...the
only retail outlet where
books and other
teaching material
published...by TALC
are available for sale"*

FOCUS ON THE INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH LIBRARY OLWEN WILLIAMS

As Assistant Librarian at the Institute of Child Health (ICH) Library, my main area of responsibility is to develop library services and resources for nurses and allied health staff.

The Library

The library's full name is The Friends of the Children of Great Ormond Street Library, and it supports the research, teaching and clinical commitments of ICH and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. The library, which is located on the 2nd floor of ICH, houses the main collection of paediatric materials within the University of London. It currently subscribes to approximately 225 journal titles, and stocks some 8,000 books, including historical materials. The library collection also incorporates the Resource Centre, which supports all teaching and research in the Centre for International Child Health (CICH) department within ICH. It provides access to multimedia materials relating to the fields of Mother and Child Health, and Disability in less developed countries (LDCs). The TALC (Teaching Aids at Low Cost) Bookshop is also located within the library - the only retail outlet in the UK where books and other teaching material published and distributed by TALC are available for sale.

Databases

The library benefits from excellent networked facilities which include access to:

- Medline • CINAHL • Embase
- Psychlit • BIDS • Cochrane Library
- Internet

There are also a number of non-networked databases including:

- ChildData • Popline

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE NURSING CAMPUS LIBRARY

MAHARAJGUNJ - AN OVERVIEW
DONALD MACKAY LFN COMMITTEE MEMBER
AND LIBRARIAN, HEBS
AND

GITA THAPA

Nursing Campus Library,
Tribhuvan University Institute of Medicine,
Maharajgunj,
Kathmandu,
Nepal

Libraries for Nursing have a number of overseas members and we recently asked them if they would be willing to contribute a short piece about their services for publication in the *Bulletin*. Mrs Gita Thapa, Deputy Librarian at the Tribhuvan University Institute of Medicine Nursing Campus Library in Kathmandu kindly sent us some information. What follows is an edited version of her guide to the library.

Introduction

The Institute of Medicine Nursing Campus Library was started in 1972 when the Institute of Medicine was established. At that time the library was a small room with a small collection. There were no separate staff to run the library and the library was run by the users who were campus teachers. They borrowed and returned the books and maintained a register by themselves. From 1978 the library gradually became more organised as trained staff were employed.

Objectives

The objectives of the Library are:

- To facilitate the teaching/learning of students, teachers, researchers and other interested people
- To give orientation to each batch of new students and staff
- To provide learning materials and an appropriate environment as per the need of each user
- To provide information using MEDLINE and other CD ROM searches
- To guide Bachelor in Nursing and Master in Nursing students in literature searching and putting together bibliographies for research purposes

International Nursing Librarianship

Training

We provide individual and small group training sessions in the library for all the databases, the Internet, the Cochrane Library, or any other aspect of literature searching. We are also currently expanding the provision of training in GOSH, using computers in the wards and within resource/seminar rooms located in the hospital. Internet access is becoming widely available to all staff in GOSH, and the availability of the OVID Biomedical Service for a trial period has provided an excellent opportunity to increase training in the hospital, and to work more closely with their IM&T Department.

Evidence-Based Practice

We are also involved in a number of three-day short courses entitled, How to Practice Evidence-Based Child Health, provided by The Centre for Evidence-Based Child Health. The Centre was established by Great Ormond Street Hospital Trust and ICH, as part of a national network of centres for evidence-based health care. The overall aim of the Centre is to increase the provision of effective and efficient child health care through an educational programme for health professionals. The short courses are offered to paediatricians, nurses, general practitioners, healthcare purchasers and others involved in child health, and are held in November/December and May/June each year. The course consists of plenary sessions, small group problem-solving and critical appraisal sessions based on clinical and policy scenarios in child health, and practical sessions on how to search the scientific literature. We provide practical sessions on searching the literature, using one of the computing unit's training rooms, which focus on mastering Medline (SilverPlatter version). There are also optional search sessions during which time course participants have the opportunity to use a variety of other databases and the Internet.

*"The overall aim... is
to increase the provision
of effective and efficient
child health care..."*

Activities

The activities of the library include:

- Preparing library rules and regulations according to need through the library committee
- Acquiring books, journals, documents and other teaching/learning materials
- Managing a small mobile library for students in community practice
- Keeping the books, documents, journals and other learning materials in a technical standard
- Collecting of overdue fees
- Preparing the bibliography of research reports
- Distribution of library cards to borrowers
- Providing photocopying services
- Maintaining records/reports of library activities

Library Personnel and opening hours and collection

The library is open Sunday to Friday 8 am to 8 pm and is staffed by one professional librarian, one paraprofessional, two typists and one helper.

The library's collection consists of over thirteen thousand books and eight hundred other documents, slides, flip charts and cassettes. The Library holds nine nursing titles subscribed to by the World Health Organisation and nine journals in nursing and allied health with are provided on a complementary basis. The classification systems in use are NLM and Dewey Decimal and other thesauri used include MESH, CINAHL and the Sears list of subject headings.

Library users include Certificate, Bachelor and Masters in Nursing students, teachers, faculty members and staff. Guest users include BPH and MBBS students at the Institute of Medicine, MPH students, nurses of the TUTH and anyone in the country and foreigners are also allowed to use the library.

Library facilities

All of the library's printed reading materials are on open access and the library provides an annotated health science bibliography as well as CINAHL from 1989 onwards in print. It also provides photocopying services and can carry out Medline searches. Library education is provided in the shape of orientation classes for all new users and classes on how to put together bibliographies and how to search the literature.

Agencies which donate books, journals and other materials to the library include the Asia Foundation, the British Council, WHO, the Dooley Foundation, UNICEF, SEAMIC, AHARTG and NAFA.