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LA CONFERENCE WORKSHOP REPORT

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Medical, Health and Welfare Libraries Group

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Committee 1991

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Advertising

To advertise in the Newsletter please contact the editor. £50.00 for full page insert, £25.00 for half page, and £75.00 for double page spread.

Contributions

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. Please send articles or short items to the Newsletter Editor, Debra Unsworth.

Copy dates: 17 February 1992, 17 May 1992, 17 August 1992, 17 November 1992.

Chairwoman's notes

With 1991 drawing to a close, it is not surprising that my notes for this newsletter reflect on the progress of the group during this past year. In many ways the year has been dominated by the various major educational changes that are occurring in respect of both pre- and post-registration training and in the attempts of the committee to respond to these changes and thereby ensure that library and information needs are highlighted. This has resulted in the committee (at very short notice) having to prepare and rush through the Library Association, official responses to both Project 2000 and the PREPP documents.

Our published report of the survey "Resourcing Project 2000" has certainly had some impact and received publicity in not a few of the major journals. The scant attention that most P2000 institutions had paid to resourcing the library and information side of the new training which our survey revealed early in 1991, was only the first of a succession of similar complaints that were picked up by the nursing press as the year progressed. Our study day in December should shed some further light on how later P2000 colleges are faring with regard to library implications.

In addition to addressing these 'meatier' issues, the more routine activities of organising study days and ensuring publication of the Newsletter has had to be maintained. All in all, it has been a busy, and at times, a hectic schedule.

Despite our work in 1991, there is still a long way to go. The effects of P2000 and now the realities of PREPP will remain with us for some considerable time to come. The NISG will continue to campaign and promote the important role of the library and information services within the nursing profession. Just how hard a task we have to face is perhaps best exemplified by the English National Board who have indicated that they do not believe there is a great deal of point in continuing with the regular meetings with the Regional Librarians Group. No definite decision has as yet been reached on the future of these joint meetings, but if they are discontinued, it will prove even more difficult to institute a system of incorporating inspection of nursing libraries as an

integral part of the course validation process. Fostering and strengthening links with local ENB officers in the area will be the only way forward - an advisable course of action in any case, regardless of the outcome of the ENB/RLG meetings.

As one year closes, another year inevitably dawns. A time for new plans, new ideas, new resolutions.....and a new name and logo for the Nursing Information Sub-Group Newsletter?!! Back in the mists of time (or so it seems!) we did run a competition amongst members to suggest a new name/design for the cover of our Newsletter. The result was a resounding silence from "you out there"! Ever optimistic however, we're trying again, in the hope that we'll have more success this time around. A bottle of champagne is the prize for the lucky winner whose suggestion is chosen by the committee - what better way to start off 1992? Entries in to Debra Unsworth, Editor, by the end of February 1992.

All that remains for me to do now is to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year on behalf of the NISG committee.

Christine Hardaker, Chairwoman

Membership News

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE send us your SUBSCRIPTIONS for 1992 as early in the year as you can. We are a small organisation, we cannot send repeated reminders, and - we need the money!

We also badly need NEW MEMBERS. If you know of anyone who might be interested, or would like a membership form, please contact the Membership Secretary on 0895 224478.

Thank you
Robin Snowball
Membership Secretary

"New Paths to Learning" - an impression of the NIS study day held at the RCN on 24 June 1991.

Tracey L Roberts. South Centre Librarian, South West Manchester College of Nursing.

The aim was to provide a forum where participants could explore current issues and their effects on provision. An interesting addition was the request to bring a member of teaching staff. To enlighten them perhaps? More on my tutor's opinions later.

The first speaker was Alan Myles, Principal Lecturer, Institute of Advanced Nursing Education at the RCN. He gave an overview of the current educational reforms, focusing upon Project 2000 and its resource implications. Alan used as the focal point for his talk a cultural analysis model adopted by a North West college, which highlights the variety of topic areas now being introduced into nursing curricula. The most obvious area for resource expansion was mentioned very early - that is the need for a greater variety of sociology and psychology texts. From the information given, one major implication is clear - our existing library stock is insufficient to support these new weird and wonderful subjects such as rationality, aesthetics and the new revolutionary topic area of information technology, or IT for the hip! Unfortunately, the underlying message is that unless money is poured into libraries we will never have suitable resources.

The second speaker was Angela Faulkner, Education Consultant and lecturer at Brooklands College. Angela spoke about the principles and practice of adult education, touching on the educational changes and the implications regarding student status. The new emphasis upon student-centred learning and the greater push towards students responsibility for their education were highlighted. Angela covered all aspects of adult education which are now becoming more appropriate to nursing.

The morning ended with the first of two group sessions. The topic areas discussed included the effect of change, the impact of adult-centred learning, and the problems of maintaining a quality service. The timing was right, as most of the discussions continued throughout the delicious lunch and helped to break down barriers as shared moans and groans were revealed.

After lunch, the most dynamic speaker of the day, Marie Adams, Senior Tutor Librarian at Barnet College, gave her presentation. Marie filled the generally acclaimed 'graveyard' session with anecdotes and honesty. She reminded us that the grass isn't always greener on the other side of the fence, and that change is inevitable. The message was clear - to survive we must adapt, and use every change as an opportunity. Yet to be proactive we need information, a key resource which is sadly missing.

This final point was carried over into the discussion groups, with one of the topics being the involvement of librarians in all stages of curriculum development. Other subjects included budgeting, performance indicators, and how to manage your managers.

My teaching colleague, Norma Entwistle, has always been a supporter of libraries, but this study day gave her a greater insight into the variety of problems we face and exactly what we have to offer. A vice-principal commented that the teacher had adopted the attitude of a religious zealot when libraries are discussed. It is perhaps a shame that senior managers mock our supporters rather than listen to them!!

From a personal viewpoint I found the day enjoyable and the company interesting, and came away feeling enthusiastic with the number of contacts made and ideas gained. I took comfort from the fact that we are all battling with the same gremlins - just the names are different.

Copies of the notes given out at this study day are available from Tony Shepherd at the Royal College of Nursing (see p2 for address) at a cost of £2.00. Cheques payable to 'Royal College of Nursing'.

JOINT STATEMENT ON PROJECT 2000

Guy Daines - Assistant Director (Employment & Resources), Professional Practice Division, The Library Association

In October 1990 The Library Association convened a meeting of all parties interested in the provision of library and information services to support Project 2000 courses. Representatives from COPUL, SCONUL and the Regional Librarians Group attended as well as members of the Nursing Information Subgroup and the Colleges of Further and Higher Education (CoFHE) group of The Library Association. The major concern was that the necessary resources would not be forthcoming to support the increased standard of library and information services needed to support a higher education course. It was felt that a joint statement from the main library bodies concerned would be useful in helping to make the case for proper resourcing of library and information services to the national boards, the Department of Health and the appropriate authorities at regional level. The draft statement is provided below and members are welcome to submit comments on it to Guy Daines at The Library Association (7 Ridgmount Street, London, WC1 7AE) as soon as possible. It is hoped to have the final draft ready by February 1992.

Project 2000 and Library and Information Provision - Draft statement

Introduction

1. The reforms in nursing education as represented by the Project 2000 initiative are to be welcomed. The philosophy behind these reforms embraces the concept of a research-based profession and makes greater demands on the student and teacher in terms of both the breadth and depth of knowledge required. It includes the shift from a didactic approach to teaching to a student-centred, resource-based style of learning with the accent on self-directed study and the acquisition of the relevant information-handling and study skills.
2. The new courses, as explicitly higher education courses, are fundamentally different from those they replace. The successful implementation of these reforms requires the provision of well-resourced library and information services under the management of professional librarians able both to provide the learning materials necessary to support courses and to teach information and study skills. Library and information services need to be comparable with those offered in other areas of higher education and to be similarly rooted in an educational framework.

Present library provision for nursing in the UK

3. Present library and information services provided within the NHS, and those organisations contracted to provide services from outside, vary enormously from the totally inadequate to the well-resourced and innovative services able to respond to the changing demands of users. As a recent survey (1) of libraries involved in Project 2000 work suggests there is a great disparity in the resourcing and staffing of library and

information services. Some colleges do not even employ professional librarians at site libraries. This is at a time when Project 2000 has occasioned a demonstrable increase in demand on library and information services from students and academic staff, reflecting the research-based nature and higher education status of the new courses.

Provision for Project 2000

4. The essential requirements for effective library and information services include:

- a) Stock - this should include:
 - * Overall subject coverage reflecting the needs of the Curriculum;
 - * A variety of media, such as books, journals, reports, videotapes, tape-slides, CD ROMS, and Computer-Assisted-Learning (CAL) packages to support resource-based learning.
 - * A full-range of information retrieval tools including printed indexes, online searching facilities and CD ROMS.
 - * Access to inter-loan service to provide material not held locally.

It is recommended that at least £92 per FTE student should be spent on stock and services annually (excluding staff costs and capital expenditure). This represents the minimum necessary for the smallest nursing library to operate efficiently. There should be between 46 and 53 stock items per FTE student. In the first few years additional resources may have to be spent in order to bring the library up to the standard

expected of a higher education institution. Library resources will need to be maintained at this real standard to support curriculum development.

- b) Equipment - Resources will be needed for equipment to consult online databases, CD ROMS and to make use of other non-print media such as microfiche. In most cases a computer will be required to ensure the efficient undertaking of library routines such as the loan and return of materials, reservations and overdues.
- c) Staff - Library staff have an important contribution to make to the academic work of colleges. Professional librarians are responsible for identifying, assessing and providing the learning materials necessary to support the new courses and have an important teaching role in helping students acquire the necessary information handling and study skills to maximise the benefits they can gain from their courses.
- d) Space - Adequate space is essential if the library is to function effectively. It is unlikely that a library with the appropriate stock, staff, services and reader space can be provided in less than 500 square metres.
- e) Access - Students need access to library and information services on all sites where they are expected to undertake their studies. Opening hours need to take account of evening and weekend study as well as daytime work to meet the needs of students.

Further information on standards of provision will be found in The Library Association's Guidelines for College and Polytechnic libraries (2). The recommendations are based on the results of a survey into the actual levels of library and information service provision within colleges and polytechnics.

Achieving effective provision

5. Effective library and information provision is dependent on proper planning at a regional level and adequate resourcing at the institution level. Central planning is required to gain economies of scale and ensure that the right service is provided at whatever sites students may be located during their courses. Depending on the type of structure adopted to deliver Project 2000 courses, the Regional Librarian (in England), the librarian at the associated higher education institution or, where different, the librarian of the organisation contracted to provide the library and information service may undertake this planning role. Professional advice will also be required to draw up the specification for the library and information service, evaluate bids, and monitor performance. This would normally be done by the Regional Librarian.
6. At the institutional level, the librarian needs to be actively involved in course design and curriculum development. Only then can the most appropriate mix of learning resources and services be provided to support the courses and the ever increasing information demands and needs of students and academics. This remains equally true whether the library and information service is provided in-house, by an associated institution, or through a mixture of the two.
7. Higher education courses are validated. It is important that Project 2000 courses are subject to similar quality assurance testing if they are to be regarded as of similar standing to other higher education qualifications. In any such process the quality of library and information provision is a key component as it underpins the

whole learning process, and therefore should feature as an important part of any validating mechanisms.

Conclusion

8. In a period of rapid and radical change in nursing education it is crucial to provide the effective library and information services necessary to underpin these changes. A research-based profession with higher education standards needs to resource its library and information services at similar levels to other higher education institutions. We are concerned that there is already evidence of under-resourcing of these services and a lack of proper evaluation of quality and standards when considering bids to provide library and information services. It is the responsibility of validating and funding bodies groups to ensure that the quality of library and information services is considered when accrediting and resourcing Project 2000 courses. It is the responsibility of government to encourage proper resourcing of libraries by earmarking specific funds for library development, as they have done in the past for university bookfunds and books to support the National Curriculum in schools.

References

1. SHEPHERD, T. and YEOH, J. Resourcing Project 2000: the role of library and information services. Nursing Information Subgroup of The Library Association/Royal College of Nursing Library, 1990. ISBN 187 068 7876.
2. THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. Guidelines for college and polytechnic libraries. 4th edition. The Library Association, 1990. ISBN 185 604 0070.

(Note - This is a draft statement. Although individuals may use the ideas contained in the document, it must not be described as the official view of The Library Association, or any other body. It is still the subject of consultation).

December 1991

Job Regrading Workshop - Report on the NIS Workshop at the Under One UmbrelLA Conference, Leeds 1991

Brenda Johnson, Sheffield and North Trent College of Nursing & Midwifery

In general, nursing librarians are on a low grade. The advent of Project 2000 and the current changes in nurse education will lead to increased responsibilities for nursing librarians. This session was useful in demonstrating how to apply for a job regrading.

Veronica Fraser, Professional Assistant at the LA, began the session with practical details:

When and why to apply for regrading:

- an increase in responsibilities/duties
 - e.g. :introduction of information technology
 - :greater responsibility for resources/budget
 - :development of information skills
 - :tuition
 - :wider liaison
 - :more staff
- during an organisational review
- when creating a new post

What to do:

Obtain a copy of the current job description.
Identify extra duties or responsibilities.
Ascertain your authority's procedure for applying for regrading.

Get help from:

LA
Trade Union
Line management
Your Regional Librarian or similar professional support.

Writing a new job description:

Describe the MAIN responsibilities (four or five main ones).
Demonstrate that the post requires initiative.
Include any contribution to policy development.
Use "What Librarians Do" (LA 1991).

After Veronica's introduction, the groups worked on perfecting an example job description, and the resulting discussion ended with a suggested list of responsibilities which should be demonstrated in job descriptions:

- strategic planning (responsibility for identifying user need)
- resource management (such as responsibility for budget)
- information skills programme
- systems management - IT, CDROM
- quality control
- staff recruitment, retention, development and supervision
- liaison - with committees, regional networks, county services, teaching staff
- professional services - eg stock management, subject searches.

At the end of the session, useful handouts were supplied:

- NHS Library Staff: Salary Guide. London, LA 1990
- Professional Librarians: a brief guide for employers. London, LA 1991
- Submitting a regrading claim in the NHS. London, LA 1988
- What Librarians Do: a guide for library staff. London, LA 1991.

News

Share Database set up at King's Fund

A database of information relevant to the health needs of ethnic minorities has been set up at the King's Fund, with initial £250,000 funding from the Department of Health. It aims to improve the quality of health services to ethnic minorities and the information held will include demographic and epidemiological data, details of ongoing developments in the health sector and a bibliography. It will be made available to statutory and voluntary agencies to enable them to improve the services they provide. The University of Surrey will provide statistical support for the project.

Stephen Dorrell, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, welcomed the announcement, saying:

"Information can be used much more effectively if it is shared. By spreading knowledge of developments in the field, the project aims to build on the experience of service providers and encourage the spread of good practice in a structured manner".

Book review

Checklists for libraries serving nurses. 3rd ed. London: South West Thames Library Service, 1991 Available from SWTRLs, Education Centre, Royal Surrey County Hospital, Surrey GU2 5XX. Price £10

The checklists consists of nine sections on the following topics:
core journals, current awareness services, book selection aids, reference works, subscription agents, audio-visual suppliers, useful organisations, computerised databases.

This is a handy and useful guide which will provide information to any nursing college librarian. Of course, one can quibble about what information has been included. For instance, the core journals list does not have MCN or Archives of psychiatric nursing or, more surprisingly, RN, but overall the list is of interest.

There is scope to extend the checklists further. There could be a section on hardware systems and software suppliers, eg for computer assisted learning packages.

This booklet brings together much information that is otherwise difficult or time consuming to acquire. For the price of £10 one might expect a cardboard cover rather than thin paper in view of the potential use. However, this publication is of value and is well worth having.

Paul Moorbath.

Senior Librarian, St. Bartholomews College of Nursing & Midwifery, london EC1 7BE.

Journal review

Journal of Advances in Health and Nursing Care. Quay Publishing. ISSN 0960-9857

This new bi-monthly saw its first issue this September. Aiming to provide an interdisciplinary coverage of topics related to nursing and health care, the journal is to pay particular attention to articles about legal and financial matters and the political implications of changes within the profession. This approach should attract an audience from a wide range of health professionals and allied disciplines and, in so doing, provide a forum for some stimulating discussions.

The articles in this first issue are written by members of the editorial board, who are, for the most part, either from the same campus (Lancashire Polytechnic) or from the Lancashire/West Yorkshire area. This would seem a weakness and it is hoped that in future the journal will draw from sources further afield. Also, I found at least one of the articles to be unfailingly academic, which would seem at odds with the journal's stated aim of appealing to a broad spectrum of health professionals, including students.

On first flicking through this publication I found it to be more reminiscent of a small book than a typical journal. The type is unnecessarily large and a glossary appears unexpectedly after the editor's comments at the front. Perhaps this is because Quay Publishing has concentrated on publishing books as opposed to journals in the past.

It will be interesting to watch the progress of this new publication as it develops during the next twelve months, the initial period of our subscription.

Nicola Foxlee
Assistant Librarian, Royal College of Nursing Library

Journals News

I wonder if other librarians were caught out by *Community Outlook* ceasing to be a free pull out in *Nursing Times* in January 1991. It is now a separate publication and needs a separate subscription.

Other changes are that *Midwife, Health Visitor and Community Nurse* has changed its title to *Professional Care of Mother and Child* as from September 1991.

Geriatric Nursing and Nursing Outlook have ceased publication. Their first issues were September/October 1991. Too bad if you have paid for a whole year.

NATNews/The British Journal of Theatre Nursing is now published by NATN as from April 1991 and not by Newton Mann. Volume 28 ended in March and a new volume 1 began in April 1991. I have been told by one of the editors that the *NATNews* title is to be dropped and it will be solely *British Journal of Theatre Nursing*.

Modern Midwife is promised free from Hayward Medical Communications, 1 Threshers Yard, Kingham, Oxon OX7 6YF, and *Wound Management* is also free from Media Medica, 51 West Street, Chichester PO19 1RP. But how long for?

Paul Moorbath
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