

This reviewer agrees thoroughly with the last two paragraphs (also p 31), which are reproduced here for pinning on your bed posts, principals' doors and on student union notice boards. A nursing librarian's creda could well read:- "There is no succinct, generally agreed statement about what constitutes quality in a library service, but to be deemed to possess quality, a service should exhibit inter alia three broad characteristics:

- ◆ it should meet the expectations of the institution and senior management
- ◆ it should be responsive to the expressed needs and wishes of students
- ◆ it should pass the scrutiny of professional peers, and reflect the profes-

sional consensus as to libraries' proper activities and concerns."

Recommendation: buy this document; read it, think it through, use it with your colleagues - all of them - so as to start that much needed debate (as outlined in "Resourcing Project 2000 - the role of libraries")². We are now at the stage of "no debate = no library development", and nurse education depends upon improved library and information services.

1. Library Association. Colleges of Further and Higher Education Group (1990). Guidelines for Colleges and Polytechnic Libraries. 4th ed. London: L.A.

2. Shepherd T, Yeoh J (1990) Resourcing Project 2000 - the role of libraries. London: NISG & RCN Library.

Reviewed by Tony Shepherd

The need for 'standards' in nursing libraries

One of the outcomes from the 1990 P2K Survey¹ is that there is an urgent need for a set of 'standards' to be written for nursing libraries. The L.A.'s publication 'Guidelines for Colleges and Polytechnic Libraries (1990)'², which is reviewed in this issue, is a valuable source for librarians in nursing libraries when arguing for more funds, staffing and space. A specialised 'standard' for our type of libraries will enable, one would hope, education managers to see clearly where deficiencies are to be found.

The urgent contribution of all NISG members is required now in the production of these standards to ensure that they meet 'grass root' needs. One contribution already received (from Paul Moorbatch) include the fol-

lowing possible headings:

1. **Services** (Publications and guides, current awareness education, Library management systems on computer, external links such as regional networks, inter-library loans service via Arttel)
2. **Buildings and accommodation** (Adequate seating etc. Audio visual or learning resources centre)
3. **Stock** (Printed materials viz. books and journals, non print media, selection procedures and involvement in course planning and selection of materials)
4. **Teaching role** (Preparation of resources packages and educational role)
5. **Staff development** (Involvement in planning resources. Good com-

munications. Grading and staff development. Staffing levels)

6. **Finance** (Adequate budget and means of income generation)
7. **Quality assurance** (Means of monitoring the quality of service)

To make your contribution, please send a note to Paul Moorbatch - his address is inside the front cover of this newsletter. Brief outlines would be most appropriate, please. If you would like to be part of a small working

group involved in producing the first draft, please let Paul know.

References

1. Shepherd T, Yeoh J (1990) *Resourcing Project 2000 - the role of libraries*. London: NISG & RCN Library.
2. Library Association, Colleges of Further and Higher Education Group (1990). *Guidelines for Colleges and Polytechnic Libraries*. 4th ed. London: L.A.

Reviewed by Tony Shepherd

Health Care Information Review Panel - provision and use of health care information in the United Kingdom

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In response to a paper on "The role of the British Library for medical and health information" submitted by SCONUL to the Minister for the Arts in October 1989 (and subsequently published in *Health Libraries Review* March 1990) the British Library intends to set up a broad review of information provision to the health care community.

This will consist of a review committee of senior and experienced people representing academics, practitioners, information personnel etc. Some of you may remember that a Medical Information Review of this kind was set up some 10 years ago and its final report published in 1981. The present Review Panel will, however, cover the whole area of health care information provision to the public, academic and private sectors with the exception of patient information.

The Review will explore both the information needs and the quality of information provision to the appropriate client groups. The intention is essentially practical. The previous Medical Review had a bias towards information research needs. While the new review may identify some research needs it is expected that its recommendations will be directed mainly at those (eg policy makers, administrators, librarians) who are able to affect the provision of information services.

The aims of the Review are, therefore to survey current information provision and needs in the health care field and to make recommendations which, if implemented, will ensure that future provision more closely meets the information needs of all professional groups in the health care field in support of patient care, management decision making, education and training