

Library and Information Services to Support Project 2000

British Library R&D Report 6088

Capital Planning 138pp £19.90 (incl postage) ISBN 0-906011-85-X

NURLIS Phase 1 is a research report that looks at the provision made by nursing libraries to support Project 2000. It is divided into eight chapters which include the topics of the provision of learning resources, strategic planning, organisation and funding. The survey relied on questionnaires sent to 93 institutions in all four countries of the United Kingdom.

There was a 60% response rate - presumably from the best-organised institutions. More detailed case studies were carried out in 10 colleges. The questionnaires were not sent directly to libraries, and it does seem possible that the responses are official replies and may paint a rosier picture than the real situation.

The report shows that there is much diversity in library provision, for example, some are run by universities while others are multidisciplinary National Health Service district libraries.

Some of the findings are disturbing. For instance, one quarter of librarians are not involved in strategic planning of learning resources, and two thirds of librarians are only occasionally consulted about reading lists. The pressure on library space and staff and the lack of multiple copies of heavily demanded texts are noted, but some quantified results would have been interesting.

The question of funding of learning resources is addressed, and it emerges that the money actually allocated to libraries and hence the per capita spending varies enormously. The amount allocated to books and journals varies.

The report does not give recommendations, but it does conclude that there is a need for standards on nursing library provision; this has since been addressed in the English National Board Educational audit where questions are asked rather than fixed standards being given. Capital Planning is undertaking further research and will consider standards.

The cost of the report is high, reflecting a limited market, and some of the appendices are poorly printed, but it is to be hoped that it will be purchased and read by all learning resources managers.

Available from : Capital Planning, 52 High Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 2LG.

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This review is a re-print of the original which appeared in Nursing standard, vol.7, no.38, on 9 June 1993, page 53. Many thanks to the NS Editor for agreeing to us re-publishing this review and congratulations to her for featuring "library topics" on a regular basis.