

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.

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