

**'Making a Difference': contributions of higher education library and information professionals to the Government's nursing, midwifery and health visiting strategy**  
**UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARIANS (UHSL)**

**Pat Gannon-Leary**

This report of a national survey is now available on the UHSL website;  
[www.uhsl.ac.uk](http://www.uhsl.ac.uk)

The survey was commissioned by the University Health Science Librarians group (UHSL). The report describes the Government strategy *Making a Difference*, which sets out a new model of nursing education including the opportunity to fast-track and promotes more flexible approaches. .

The overarching aim of the project was to examine ways in which library and information services (LIS) in NHS/university partnerships involved in supporting *Making a Difference* were responding to the new curricular model and how they might support it in the future. Almost ¾ of institutions approached responded to a questionnaire.

**Topics covered by their responses include:**

- the degree of LIS involvement in curriculum planning;
- how pre-registration students are supported;
- means of coping with increasing student numbers;
- characteristics of nursing students who are LIS users;
- changes in pre-registration nursing students' use of LIS;
- changes in academic staff's perception of the LIS role;
- user education;

- the impact of increasing amounts of time spent on placement;
- the effects of the step-on, step-off model of progression.

The conclusion examines present and future issues around learning approaches, distance provision, students, staff and user education and makes recommendations.

Project authors:

Graham Walton, Faculty Librarian (Health, Social Work and Education), Learning Resources, University of Northumbria [graham.walton@unn.ac.uk](mailto:graham.walton@unn.ac.uk)

Maurice Wakeham, Anglia Polytechnic University Academic Liaison Librarian, Health and Social Care [M.Wakeham@apu.ac.uk](mailto:M.Wakeham@apu.ac.uk)

Dr. Pat Gannon-Leary, Researcher, Information Management Research Institute, School of Information Studies, University of Northumbria [patricia.gannonleary@unn.ac.uk](mailto:patricia.gannonleary@unn.ac.uk)

The University Health Science Librarians group was established in 1996. It seeks to act as a forum for the interchange of ideas and contribute towards the discussion of issues relating to Health Sciences in higher education. The group's activities include

- organising regular study days
- providing a rapid response at a national level to matters of concern to
- members
- disseminating information on health science librarianship
- liaising with groups with complementary interests.