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LAUNCH OF BRITISH NURSING INDEX

Two major professional indexes are being integrated to form the most comprehensive and up-to-date system of nursing information in the UK.

Bournemouth University's Library and Information Service has joined forces with the Poole Hospital NHS Trust, Salisbury Hospital NHS Trust and the Royal College of Nursing to establish this new venture.

The *British Nursing Index* (BNI) is a marriage of two already well-subscribed systems - *Nursing and Midwifery Index* (NMI) previously published by a consortium of Bournemouth University & Poole Hospital NHS Trust and Salisbury Hospital NHS Trust with *RCN Nurse ROM* and *Nursing Bibliography*, published by the RCN.

This will be the first time such an information source has been available in three distinct formats to satisfy increasingly varied professional demand - on the Internet, CD-Rom and printed text.

The pooling of these resources will result in a new database featuring over 220 health-related journals - with 9,000 references to be added every year.

"The BNI will enable nurses, midwives and health visitors to gain access to the latest professional literature simply, quickly and efficiently," explains Jill Beard of Bournemouth University's Library and Information Services. "It will be an extremely valuable resource for them wherever they are studying and will obviously have great benefits for patient care."

Tony Shepherd, Head of Library Services at the RCN, adds: "The advent of BNI could not come at a better time for nursing in the UK. There is an increasing demand for current information to be made more easily available to the profession. BNI is a major step forward in meeting this demand."

The Index will be based at Bournemouth University and will be maintained by a team of information specialists at the University, the RCN and the local Hospital Trusts. It will be available from 1 January 1997.

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JOURNALS NEWS

Child Health and the RCM *Current Awareness Service* have ceased publication. The RCM are considering the provision of such information in electronic form.

European Nurse was launched in April and is published quarterly. It covers nursing throughout Europe and contains original research and country reports and conference reports. It is available from Edward Arnold, 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH. The annual subscription is £70 p.a. for libraries.

Health Matters was launched in 1996 and is published quarterly. It covers health policy issues and health politics and the future of the NHS and health issues abroad.

Breakthrough began publication in spring 1996. It is published quarterly by the British Association of Social Workers and Anglia Polytechnic University. It covers the area of mental illness in the community, the move of patients from institutions into the community and evaluation of mental health services. It is available from Christine Sedgwick, BASW Trading, 16 Kent Street, Birmingham B5 6RD. The annual subscription is £45 p.a. for libraries. The 1(1) pilot issue had 6 papers on various mental health issues. These included self-help mental program in the USA and poverty and mental health services in the UK. Overall, the papers are readable but seem short on results and tend to be anecdotal and general discussion and thus lacking in scientific rigor. However there is a shortage of publications on mental health so this one is most welcome.

Health: an interdisciplinary journal for the social study of health, illness and medicine is to be launched in 1997 by Sage Publications, 6 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PU. The institutional rate will be £150 for the first 2 years and 6 issues are promised.