

## Chairman's Notes

### **Conference time:**

As you know, the NIS is planning an important contribution to the MHWLG Conference in Canterbury this year. When you read this, it will all be over but we hope that the work shops on "The Librarian as Champion and Mentor", plus the NIS Information Desk in the exhibition area, would have been successful. "Thank you" to all those who helped in this event.

### **Qualified nurses' information needs:**

Concern is growing that the library and information needs of the qualified nurse might be overlooked in some areas. As Project 2000 develops across the UK, and as Trusts are formed, it is becoming clear that some nurses are becoming "disfranchised". Some colleges and trust hospitals are no

longer giving free right of entry and access to library resources because groups of nurses are no longer seen as part of "their" staff group. If this is happening, it means that some colleges effectively have no local library available for their use, and other libraries in medical or other higher education institutions do not allow open access by non-students. In addition, special libraries, such as the RCN, are already overstretched.

If you know of cases where nurses have no access to local nursing or health libraries, please let the NIS committee know. We wish to monitor the situation so as to make a strong response to the appropriate authorities. Removing the rights of access of nurses to nursing libraries is quite unacceptable.