



INNER LONDON CONSORTIUM LIBRARY PROJECT REPORT

This Report provides members of educational consortia looking at Library services for trained nurses, midwives, health visitors and professions allied to medicine, with a working model.

The relationship between the NHS and higher education sector is central to a wide range of educational and other issues including research and development, interaction between electronic networks, and libraries.

Nurse education's transfer into the university sector is now almost complete but the issues arising from integrating healthcare training colleges into higher education have been, and still are, complex and challenging. On the NHS side the creation of education consortia, whose major functions are workforce planning and commissioning education direct from education providers, is equally challenging as these newly formed bodies grapple within a competitive culture to collaborate for mutual benefit.

One of North Thames Region's pioneering consortia, Inner London Consortium (ILC), is a complex body which includes NHS Trusts with teaching hospital university connections, community based Trusts and general hospital acute Trusts. 12,000 trained nurses, midwives, health visitors and PAMs are employed across the consortium, all of whom require access to and provision of appropriate library and information services.

Following a report on the issues, consortium members gave their support to a major library project and appointed a project implementation officer. The ILC, working with the Region's Library & Information Unit and Librarians, have taken the opportunity provided by the changes in the education of health care professionals to begin the process of moving medical libraries to a multidisciplinary base. Discussions have also taken place between the University and NHS Networks and there is a partnership being forged.

The ILC Library Project Report succinctly sets the scene and discusses how this unique collaborative project evolved. Most importantly the main text is supplemented by key supporting papers from the project. These include: the strategic framework for Library and Information Services across North Thames; the Rationalisation of Nursing Libraries Action Plan; the Access Policy; the Collection Development Policy; the Inter Library Loans project proposal; the

Library service provision schedule; expenditure details, and an outline of the evaluation work that is being undertaken.

Further information can be obtained from: Susan Fairlamb, North Thames Library and Information Unit, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EJ (tel.0171-405 5667; fax 0171-405 5668; e-mail -sfairlamb@bpmf.ak.uk).

MEANWHILE, ON THE INTERNET..

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