

Contact a Family Directory of Specific Conditions and Rare Syndromes

<http://www.cafamily.org.uk/dirworks.html>

Each entry contains a short medical description of the condition together with details of inheritance patterns and pre-natal diagnosis. This information is followed by details of the related support networks, their activities, publications and what they offer to families. Also provides details of *Contact a Family's* contact line service

CharitiesDirect

<http://www.caritasdata.co.uk/index.htm>

CharitiesDirect is an information service for use by charities. Professional advisers and anyone else involved with or interested in the charity sector. The service covers around 5,000 of the UK's leading charities with information drawn from CaritasData's Charities Database.

Telephone Helplines Directory

<http://www.helplines.org.uk>

This directory has over 900 national, regional and local telephone helplines throughout the UK

Quackwatch Your Guide to Health Fraud, Quackery, and Intelligent Decisions

<http://www.quackwatch.com/>

An excellent guide on how to spot dodgy sites of all descriptions.

LINC PANEL MEETING

Paul Moorbath

**City University St Bartholomew School of Nursing & Midwifery,
London**

LINC is a forum where representatives of the various libraries offering services to health professionals meet. It includes Medical libraries, university libraries via SCONUL, the Department of Health, Library Association and Health Libraries and Libraries for Nursing and libraries of national importance such as RCN and King's Fund. There was a meeting in Cardiff on 13 October 1998.

It was resolved that there should be three types of member library with varying voting rights. LfN could choose to be a foundation or a subscribing member (as at present).

A business and marketing plan for the group was presented. LINC has begun publishing material. LINC has published a *Checklist for libraries* which considers pointers for quality in libraries. It is being printed by the King's Fund and sales are going well. There is to be an accompanying toolkit. It was also proposed to set up a LINC website based on the King's Fund file server.

Veronica Fraser, Library Adviser to the Department of Health, considered a protocol on links between higher education and the NHS. There was discussion about a library and information strategy for the whole health sector. There is to be a task force to consider the next steps.

David Stewart presented a business plan considering funding and strategy. It was necessary to support new projects and it was hoped to sponsor new research. During 1998 LINC had considered a national information plan for health and held a study day in London where members had brainstormed how this might happen. LINC had collected responses to a report on library services to the nursing profession and set up a task force to take forward the issues raised. There is a group working on the accreditation of health libraries and developing the toolkit. There is a group working on the feasibility of a sectoral library and information plan for health.

ELECTRONIC JOURNALS

This is a brief report of the UMSLG Open Forum meeting held in London on 2nd November 1998.

Bernard Naylor (University of Southampton) gave the context.

The evidence base for medicine is largely found in libraries and in journals. Journals are periodic, have a variety of contributors, a thematic focus, contain new knowledge and can be peer reviewed. It is likely that over time journals will become electronic. At present they are becoming electronic at a faster pace than libraries can cope with and the gap between what publishers are offering and what libraries are taking up is widening.

Future developments: Librarians seem to be going for national deals (CHEST, BIDS, EDINA, NESLI). The librarian's role will be to arrange access, pay up-front by subscription or pay per view. There is an evaluating/appraising role, and support for teachers, learners and researchers.