



## **REPORT OF M25 CONSORTIUM OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES HEALTH DAY**

23rd November 1996, St Bartholomew's Hospital

This group is a consortium of cooperating HE libraries within and around the M25 region. This day was organised to discuss some of the issues continuing to arise as nurse education finds its way in to higher education.

Maggie Haines, NHS Library Advisor, gave a talk on library services in the new NHS and developments for the future. She also gave a talk to the LfN Study Day a few days later; her talk on that occasion will be fully reported in the next issue of the Bulletin.

Charles Easman, Director of Education and Training, North Thames RHA, spoke about the NHS culture and thought partnership the key relationship, a product of negotiation from which both sides gain.

He outlined the structure of the NHS. In April 1996 there will be 8 Regional Offices of the NHSE staffed by civil servants giving a great potential for centralisation. Health service management has a great need for information particularly for the development side of R & D. The health service also a place of considerable tribalism - he likened it to Bosnia. In light of this, multidisciplinary may be good in theory but will be difficult to put into practice.

Below (page 15) is a chart showing structure of levies which will be basis for funding from April 1996.

The management structure, where managers are judged on results and balancing the books year on year does not encourage long term planning; they are financial managers and so need to be spoken to in such terms.

Lois Crooke, Head of the Wolfson School of Health Science at TVU, gave a University view. TVU took all its nursing libraries off the NHS sites and put them on three floors of a 14 storey tower block. She talked about the University's mission to produce capable and confident students. Learning in the future will be more technology based and must become more innovative, participatory and involving for students. She re-emphasised the view that the NHS has responsibility to provide services for trained staff and that Trusts should not expect funding from Universities in return for providing clinical placements.

Levy	Non medical education and training	Post-grad medical and Dental	Service Increment for teaching	R & D
Staff	Nurses, midwives	Doctors in hospitals and dentists	Medical and dental u/g	All groups
Budget holder	Regional Office, educational consortia	Deans of PGM through regional office	Med schools, NHS Trusts, Regional Offices	NHS trusts, regional offices
Libraries	HE through NHS contracts, need for NHS library access during clinical placements	Post grad medical or multidisciplinary libraries	Post grad med and Med School Libraries	NHS/NEI Libraries

Dennis Heathcote, Head of Library and Media Services at Greenwich University, gave a personal view. He talked about the Greenwich situation. Although some sites had closed, staffing had been enhanced elsewhere, stock had been increased as had the range of periodicals and there has been a dramatic increase in ILLs. He thought that the access issue had been exaggerated. In many ways his experiences had been similar to that of other university librarians faced with integrating many small nursing libraries.

Veronica Fraser is Professional Advisor at the LA on Special (including health) Libraries, spoke as a 'non combatant'. The issues are to do with a clash of cultures, there is a need for a 'mature collaborative relationship', and an 'equitable access to services'. As contracts and service level agreements come on-line, experiences should be shared. There have been some employment issues where staff have transferred to find themselves under-valued and under-used. Veronica is often called upon to give advice but is conscious that she is only called in where there are problems and when it may be too late to help.

The meeting ended with a panel discussion and was generally considered a very useful day. It was organised by Liz Fairclough (South Bank University) and Sean Farrelly (Thames Valley University) and part financed by Tomlinsons Book Service, who also mounted a book display.