

## **THE USE OF LIBRARIES BY NURSING RESEARCHERS**

### **A summary**

Although there is a considerable amount of literature on nursing research and an emerging body of literature on nursing libraries and nurses' use of information, there have been no previous studies of UK nursing researchers' use of libraries. The present study was conducted by means of a questionnaire and semi-structured interviews with nursing researchers. A small complementary survey of librarians was also carried out. By way of introduction the concepts of research and nursing research, the historical and contemporary background, and the problems facing nursing research are briefly outlined. Library provision for and use by nurses, and the research reading habits of nurses are also considered.

The study found that the library was the primary source of nursing research information; other information sources supplemented library use. Journals, followed by books, were the main sources of information. CD-ROMs were also popular, but little use was being made of networks and on-line information. Nursing researchers are probably little different to other researchers in their information seeking behaviour. They employ a limited number of search strategies and rely on 'knowing their library'. Use of a few core libraries and a willingness to visit a wide range of libraries seems to be the norm. They use the library to search, photocopy or borrow, but prefer to do written and reflective work elsewhere. Access problems for qualified nursing staff continue to pose problems for the conduct of nursing research.