

Union List of Nursing Journals Scheme

As you may be aware, since 1987 my library (Salisbury District Hospital) has co-ordinated the above national union list of journal titles which currently lists titles selected from the holdings of 90 participating libraries.

Although conscious that the scheme is very successful and desperately needed by the nursing library network, I find myself no longer able to devote anything approaching the necessary time or money to it.

Issues such as over-use, use by non-members, copyright compliance, charging and token schemes have all needed addressing for the past two years, but I am afraid that being only a small provincial library with a limited number of staff, I cannot begin to tackle them. Indeed, it is proving increasingly difficult to justify the time we currently spend on the ULNJ whilst we simultaneously bid for additional staff.

We appealed for help with the scheme last year and put out a more desperate plea this year but although there is a lot of goodwill and support, there seem to be few libraries in a position to offer any practical help. Our appeal this year has brought a handful of responses but nothing concrete.

Having invested so much time and money in it, my staff and I would dearly like to see it not only continue but go from strength to strength, nurtured by libraries far bigger than ours and with far more experience in the production and marketing of library tools. It would also be nice to receive a royalty in recognition of our work on it over the past seven years, but our overriding desire is to pass the scheme on to a good home!

I wonder if the Libraries for Nursing members might be able to offer any solutions to the problem since I am afraid the scheme will fold in three months time when we produce the 1995 list.

I can provide details of those Libraries that have indicated a willingness to undertake some share of the work to keep the scheme alive and obviously we would make all our data available to whoever stepped in - we have paper versions of the 90 participating libraries' holdings and a word-processed list of those selected for inclusion. At present what is most conspicuously lacking is a co-ordinating body or person, and sadly, I feel it can no longer be me: I am quite sure there must be others out there better placed to take over and after 7 years, to be quite honest I feel it is someone else's turn!

I very much look forward to hearing from anyone who may be interested in this challenge.

Yours sincerely
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