

this discussion very exciting and look forward to seeing how Thomson ISI responds.

Overall, I found the whole conference quite awe inspiring as I see the leaps and bounds librarians are taking across all sections of medicine and health. However, meeting with the smaller group of librarians for nursing and allied health gave me the greatest satisfaction as I saw how proactive this group is.

## **Evidence based resources just a click away for nurses, midwives and other allied health professionals involved in the care of women**

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The Women's Health Specialist Library, part of the National Library for health, has a lot to offer nurses and midwives.

The library has been developed for all health care professionals involved in the care of women, although patients are also welcome to access the library. The library's role is to provide easy and rapid access to the most up-to-date health research evidence, required on a daily basis by health care professionals to make health-related decisions.



The library covers all aspects of the health of women and library resources are arranged around a browseable topic tree



As you can see from the screen shot above, the coverage of the library includes:

- sexual health
- fertility control
- menstrual cycle disorders

- infertility
- normal pregnancy
- early pregnancy problems
- complicated pregnancy
- gynaecological tumours
- menopause
- prolapse and urinary problems
- pain disorders
- surgical issues

The topic tree has been developed in order that users of the library can access the information that they require as quickly as possible. In addition to the topic tree there is also a search function where all the resources within the women's health library can be searched at once.

The library provides access to a wide variety of resources including:

- National evidence-based guidelines (e.g. NICE, RCOG, RCM)
- The Cochrane Library
- Clinical Evidence
- PRODIGY
- Royal College and Society/Association publications
- Medicines and medical devices alerts
- Patient information such as that produced by NHS Direct, DIPEX, RCOG, NICE and PRODIGY.

Nurses and midwives form a very important part of the library's target audience. Key nursing and midwifery evidence-based resources in the library include:

- RCM Evidence based Guidelines for Midwifery-led care in Labour
- NICE Antenatal care: routine care for the healthy pregnant woman
- NSF for children, young people and maternity services
- RCM Birth centres guideline
- Guidance on caring for pregnant prisoners
- Position papers on complementary therapies
- Guidance on domestic abuse in pregnancy
- Gynaecology service improvement guidelines
- Knowledge resources for gynaecology specialist nurses (fertility, colposcopy, urogynaecology, menopause, oncology)

The library is a one-stop-shop for all evidence-based health information relevant to midwives and nurses involved in the care of women. We provide up-to-date information for busy professionals by regularly scanning a range of sources ourselves so that nurses and midwives don't have to. The library produces a monthly email newsletter highlighting new resources that have recently been added to the library with the aim of helping professionals such as nurses and midwives to keep up-to-date with new developments in their field. We also link to the NLH Women's Health Clinical Question Answering Service which provides a way for practitioners to ask detailed clinical questions. A library tour has also been developed to introduce new users to the library and to provide an overview of the range of resources contained within it.

The library will be of benefit to librarians too as it provides a reliable source for answering user enquiries and keeping up-to-date. We encourage health librarians to promote the Women's Health Library to the nurses and midwives that use their services.

Library development is guided by a national reference group comprising of representative end users. We are very keen to encourage both health care professionals and librarians to let us know what they think of the library. All comments and suggestions are welcomed as we wish to develop the library to reflect the needs of the people who use it. Please feel free to email me on the address below if you have any comments or questions.

Library website: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/womenshealth>

## **LfN News**

**Evaluation of the LfN Study Day "Shaping our professional future: pro-actively meeting information needs, held at the Royal College of Nursing, Cardiff, 27 May 2005**

**Suella M. Hunting**

**Homerton School of Health Studies  
Victoria House, Capital Park  
Fulbourn, Cambridge  
Attendance**

This study day was held in Cardiff and attended by 42 people. Of these attendees, five were speakers, five were committee members, three were facilitators and 29 were attendees.