

Notes from the Nursing and Allied Health Resources Section Meeting at the 2005 MLA meeting in San Antonio, Texas

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I had the pleasure of attending the 2005 Medical Library Association meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Part of my visit included attendance at the Nursing and Allied Health Resources Section (NAHRS) annual meeting. I would like to report on some highlights of the meeting that will be of interest to many LfN members.

NAHRS's website states the following:

"The purpose of this Section shall be to work within the Medical Library Association to serve the interests and concerns of librarians responsible for services to the Nursing and Allied Health professions; to foster the professional growth of its members; to promote the provision of high quality library service; and to provide leadership in identifying and solving problems in nursing and allied health information delivery. This Section works with other groups within the Medical Library Association and with other organizations to insure excellence in library information services for nurses and allied health professionals."

The group reminded me of the close camaraderie and support between members that I find within the LfN. The group sponsored a number of workshops and a Continuing Education course on Expert CINAHL Searching during the MLA conference. They have a newsletter, mailing list, website and awards committee for professional excellence.

The group also has a research committee, chaired by Peg Allen, Library Consultant. This group has been involved in two projects that would be of use to British librarians: Mapping the Literature of Nursing Task Force and Mapping the Literature of Allied Health Task Force. Paper copies of Mapping the Literature of Nursing was distributed at the meeting. I have requested an electronic version which I will forward to the listserv once I have received it. The Task Force has done a wonderful job in identifying nursing titles in the US, UK and Canada. Each title in the chart noted the title's peer review status (blind, double-blind, editorial board or expert peer review), research percentages and where a title is indexed. There was an additional section using a point ranking system for content, reputation and cites. This project will be very useful to those of us preparing for RAE as it identifies key nursing journals that are desirable for authors wanting to publish. The Allied Health mapping was not available yet, I believe. A big hand to our colleagues over the sea for taking on such a huge project – AND to Catherine Ebenezer, Librarian at South London and Maudsley NHS Trust, for her contribution of UK titles!!

A second document that I would like to share is their draft letter to Thomson ISI. As we know, there are limited titles available in the ISI Citation Indexes. The NAHRS group have suggested taking the findings of the Mapping projects to Thomson ISS and discuss the results. I found

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.