

Hyde Park Corner!!! She has since worked for Bristol Poly, Severn Trust in Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire Health Authority. In 1996 she gained a masters degree in Health Information Management at Aberystwyth, finishing her dissertation only minutes before flying off to Australia for a six-month job exchange, where she was Nursing Liaison Librarian for the University of South Australia, Adelaide.

Deborah has worked for the RCN in Cardiff since 1989 and has been providing clerical support for the library service for the last four years, previous to this she was full-time Personal Assistant to a Professional Officer.

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RCN SCOTLAND LIBRARY: THE FIRST EIGHTEEN MONTHS ENID FORSYTH

As part of the developments of the UK-wide RCN Library and Information Services this new library is being developed to support the membership in Scotland. It is incredibly exciting to develop a library service from scratch. So many opportunities to develop a service for the 21st Century unhampered by old stock and inherited practices.

Membership has been information hungry from day one and our local motto quickly became "... Aiming Towards Nurses Becoming Information Rich." Many of our enquiries and requests come from members working in the community, general practice and in the private sector. This is not surprising as these nurses generally have less easy access to local health libraries. The private sector includes people working in nursing homes, industry and local authorities and their needs vary from finding information on oral hygiene in the elderly to industrial injuries and exposure to chemicals in the workplace.

Continued overleaf..

**RCN Scotland
website:**

**[http://www.
rcnscotland.org](http://www.rcnscotland.org)**

RCN LIBRARY SCOTLAND CONTINUED...

As a practitioner living through one of the biggest information revolutions of all time I am painfully aware of so many opportunities and yet so many barriers. Each practising health professional needs fast and easy access to health information on the ward, in the clinic, in the community and at home. I am hoping that the National electronic Library for Health (NeLH) in partnership with those of us in health organisations can make fast easy access a reality for many. Higher education has made great strides in this game by providing its students with excellent database, internet and email facilities.

Geography in Scotland provides us with many challenges. Edinburgh must seem to some in the Islands as remote as London. Much of our work comes in by telephone which makes good telephone skills essential. This may be the only contact we have with a member and if we get it wrong it is bad both for the member and the RCN. One of our plans is to undertake a pilot project to develop good electronic links to quality health information in one of our outlying offices. Other staff are our greatest resource and if some of them can come on board and develop the role of 'barefoot librarians' they will be able to help us move on. The days of professional demarcation in information provision are over. Also, some customers are highly information literate and we can learn much from them. Helping customers find high quality information is in great demand. The RCN Scotland Library in partnership with the Health Education Board for Scotland and the Chief Scientist's Office (Scottish Office), has run a number of highly successful Finding the Evidence Workshops. We plan to take these out on the road and work in partnership with other health librarians in Scotland.

The RCN Library and Information Services are about to launch their UK-wide catalogue on the web. Currently the RCN has both a UK-wide website and an RCN Scotland website and there are links from both these sites to information on all the RCN Libraries in the UK. Colleagues from the London, Belfast Cardiff and Edinburgh libraries are working on a joint strategic plan to map out a streamlined future for the RCN libraries at this time of great opportunity and change.

RCN UK
website: [http://](http://www.rcn.org.uk)
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