
Providing a district library service

**Proposals arising from a series of workshops held in
1983 about the contribution library services can make
to the provision and use of information in the NHS**

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Providing a district library service is the seventh of a series of occasional papers. The other titles in this series are

Converting data into information: proposals formulated by members of two workshops held in March 1982 about the management arrangements required for collecting valid clinical data and providing a district information service

Introducing IT in the district office: proposals arising from a study carried out in Southend Health District by Aslib Research and Consultancy in 1982

Developing a district IT policy: proposals formulated by members of a workshop held in June 1983 about the development of a district policy for the introduction of information technology with particular emphasis on the implementation of computerised departmental information systems

Piloting Körner: the views of senior administrators from the four districts who piloted the interim reports of Working Groups A to E from 1981 to 1983

Making data credible: proposals formulated by members of a workshop held in February 1984 about the setting, achieving and monitoring of data standards with particular emphasis on standards for clinical activity data

Enabling clinical work: proposals formulated at a workshop held in September 1984 about the organisational arrangements required to enable hospital clinical work, based on studies done in five districts

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Proposals arising from a series of workshops held in 1983 about the contribution library services can make to the provision and use of information in the NHS

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'A library is not a cemetery of dead books. It is an ever refreshed, ever enlarged ballet of animated ideas.'

Justice Felix Frankfurter in
Of law, life and other things that matter

Preface

The pursuit of high standards of patient care and emphasis on cost-effectiveness, which characterise today's NHS, demand that all categories of staff have ready access to information appropriate to the decision in hand. Industry and commerce are investing in increasingly sophisticated information handling techniques. A similar approach is required in the NHS.

The role of library services in the NHS is highlighted in this paper, which offers proposals for developing these services in response to the needs of all users. The proposals arise from a series of workshops held between May and December 1983, which were organised by a joint working party set up between NHS regional librarians and the DHSS (membership shown in Appendix A). Participants in the workshops were representative of the main professional groups and included those active in clinical practice, education, research and management (the chairmen and speakers are listed in Appendix B).

Providing NHS staff with adequate library services and training them to become effective library users will clearly have resource implications. However, good practice in the organisation of library services can help to ensure more cost effective use of the resources deployed, as well as an improved standard of service. The essence of that good practice is greater managerial coordination of library services and the intelligent use of information technology.

M J Fairey

Chairman NHS/DHSS Health Services Information Steering Group

Chapter 1: Introduction

Role of a library service

- 1.1 A library service is an essential component of the information handling activity of the NHS. Its role is to locate, collect, organise and disseminate information of all types and from many different sources and subject areas, both inside and outside the health service, including those in non-paper form. Fundamental to this role is the emphasis on dissemination – getting the right information to those who can use it.
- 1.2 Librarians not only provide information themselves but also refer enquirers, where appropriate, to specialists in particular areas, such as drug information officers or statisticians.
- 1.3 The basic functions of a library service are to:
 - a. search for information in response to requests;
 - b. provide requested documents;
 - c. alert users to published documents and information;
 - d. provide an environment and the facilities for study; and
 - e. educate NHS staff in the effective use of literature services.

Existing library provision

- 1.4 Existing patterns of provision vary widely between districts, but a district service normally combines some of the following elements:

- a. a library in the postgraduate medical education centre;
- b. a school of nursing library;
- c. a library in a combined education centre;
- d. a combined patient and staff library operated by the public library service;
- e. a library in a psychiatric or mental handicap hospital;
- f. a service point in a smaller hospital;
- g. a library or information room at district headquarters; and
- h. 'bench books' in an individual department.

District library services are discussed in Chapter 2.

- 1.5 In isolation, a district library service can offer only a limited range of material and services. It must be seen as a point of access to local, regional, national and international library and information networks. Regional and national library resources are considered further in Chapters 4 and 5.

User needs

- 1.6 Library services reflect the objectives of their parent organisation and are designed to serve specific populations. To do this effectively the needs of potential users must be identified. Within the NHS, library services are required by all professions:
- a. in support of patient care,
 - b. for research,
 - c. in the discharge of managerial responsibilities, and
 - d. for basic and continuing education.

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1.7 The need to develop library services to meet user needs has already been expressed on behalf of various professional groups.^{1,2,3} Particular needs referred to in our workshops included:

- a. services designed to inform users of the latest material available in their field;
- b. better access to documents, for example, by improving photocopying and lending facilities; and
- c. education in the use of library and literature services.

1.8 In addition to needs common to all NHS staff, the workshops highlighted some which are specific to a particular profession, function or place of work, or to the patient and general public. These specific needs and their implications for NHS library services are described in Chapter 3.

Information technology

1.9 Developments in information technology (IT) relevant to the NHS have been discussed in earlier papers in this series: *Introducing IT in the district office*⁴ and *Developing a district IT policy*.⁵ The implications for library services of recent changes in the capabilities of IT are far-reaching. They offer the possibility of improved access to local, national and international sources through computer networks using low-cost terminals which can be widely distributed in accessible locations. The main applications of information technology relevant to NHS library services are considered in Chapter 5.

Chapter 2: A district library service

Introduction

- 2.1 Libraries in the NHS were set up originally in support of post-graduate medical education and research, and nurse education. It was evident from the workshops that continuing development of library services at district level for those purposes is needed to remove unacceptable variations in quality around the country. It is equally important that appropriate levels of service are provided in support of clinical practice, for management and for the public at large.
- 2.2 If library services at district level are to reflect a wider range of user demands and changing needs they must be flexible and responsive to local conditions. Whilst it would be counter-productive to issue prescriptive guidance, it is possible to identify in broad terms proven ways of developing an effective district library service.
- 2.3 It is *proposed* that two key principles should underpin the development of a district library service, namely:
- a. the service should be coordinated effectively; and
 - b. the service should aim to meet the full range of needs of all groups of staff.
- 2.4 In developing a service consideration needs to be given to:
- a. the functions of a district library service,

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- b. the resources required in terms of manpower skills and facilities, and
- c. the management arrangements.

Functions

2.5 The functions of a library service are defined in paragraph 1.3. To perform those functions effectively a district library service should:

- a. provide a full range of services,
- b. select suitable stock to be held locally,
- c. publicise its services and stock, and
- d. educate NHS staff in the use of libraries.

2.6 It is *proposed* that the services provided in the district include:

- a. loans from stock,
- b. inter-library loans,
- c. on-line searches,
- d. answering enquiries, and
- e. the provision of current awareness services.

2.7 It is *proposed* that the stock held include:

- a. primary documents such as books, journals and reports;
- b. secondary sources such as indexes, abstracts and directories; and
- c. material in a variety of media such as videotapes, tape/slides and computer assisted learning programs.

Resources

2.8 An effective library service needs adequate resources to handle the large amounts of documentary information required. As all districts have to cover the same subject areas there is a cost in providing a basic service which is common to all districts. Districts with a smaller overall budget will thus have to commit proportionately more resources to provide the basic service. Over and above this basic provision the level of resources required will be determined by:

- a. the number of staff to be served;
- b. the presence of less common clinical specialties or professional disciplines;
- c. the geography of the district; and
- d. the effectiveness of management arrangements.

2.9 The resources required comprise:

- a. skilled manpower,
- b. facilities, and
- c. stock.

A balance should be maintained between expenditure on staff and on stock and services. Expenditure on staff will normally account for between 50 and 70 per cent of library costs. If effective use is made of information technology, the lower figure is more likely to apply.

2.10 The *staffing* of a district library service should take into account the level of skills required and the number of library service points to be staffed. As well as professional librarians, trained library assistants may be employed to deal with routine procedures and to

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deputise in the absence of the librarian. Larger libraries will have staff permanently on site but smaller units may be supervised on a peripatetic basis. The grade and training of both professional and clerical staff should reflect the skills required.

2.11 A variety of skills is required to provide an effective library service and it is *proposed* that they include the following:

- a. identifying user needs as the basis for developing the service;
- b. up-to-date knowledge of NHS clinical and management practice;
- c. selecting and acquiring stock;
- d. retrieving information;
- e. using information technology; and
- f. communications skills.

2.12 Library *facilities* should be located so as to permit ease of access by the users. When new facilities are planned this principle should underpin decisions about the siting of libraries. As far as existing facilities are concerned, local geography and historical patterns of use will largely determine where services are sited. In practice this usually means a library in district general hospitals, other major hospitals and main administrative units. Access can also be facilitated by coordinating stock, services and staff and concentrating resources at the most accessible library in the district.

2.13 In allocating resources for stock and services it is *proposed* that special account be taken of:

- a. the needs of groups who are currently poorly served, such as paramedical staff and students, trained nurses and managers of all disciplines;
- b. standards set by statutory and other educational bodies;

- c. the cost of on-line information retrieval, inter-library loan facilities and other services; and
- d. the escalating costs of specialist journals.

2.14 Resources are needed to maintain stocks of 'bench books' in individual departments, and other literature to which continual reference is needed. However, it is *proposed* that the expansion of such collections into departmental libraries be discouraged. Though such arrangements may be convenient for the department in question, they can lead to difficulty of access for other users and duplication of facilities, thereby diverting scarce resources from the main library services.

Management arrangements

2.15 A district library service should be developed as an integral part of a comprehensive district information strategy. It is *proposed* that management arrangements should ensure:

- a. Effective planning, management and coordination of library services throughout the district.
- b. Close collaboration between libraries and specialist information providers, such as drug information officers.
- c. Ready access to library facilities for all staff who need them. Any NHS funded library should be open to all groups of NHS staff.
- d. Effective links with other libraries both inside and outside the NHS. These are discussed in Chapters 4 and 5.

2.16 It is *proposed* that all library services in the district should be coordinated by a professional librarian. The role of the librarian must be compatible with management arrangements for the information service to senior district managers, which are discussed in

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*Converting data into information.*⁶ As districts review their management arrangements following the appointment of general managers, consideration should be given to the integration of all information services.

- 2.17 Effective links between the different services and staff groups concerned with providing information will permit the sharing of resources, skills and materials. In particular, close working arrangements should be established between the library service and specialist providers of information, such as community physicians and health education personnel.

Chapter 3: Meeting specific user needs

Introduction

3.1 A district library service, as outlined in Chapter 2, should provide the basis for meeting user needs common to all NHS professional groups. However, certain groups have specific needs, namely:

- a. hospital medical staff,
- b. nursing and paramedical staff,
- c. general practitioners and community-based staff,
- d. managers of all disciplines,
- e. staff providing emergency services, and
- f. consumers of health care.

3.2 Two significant differences of emphasis between the needs of individual groups are:

- a. Practitioners and managers tend to require selected information rather than the source documents themselves. The opposite is true of education staff and researchers.
- b. Practitioners are more restricted than other groups in their opportunities to use libraries; practitioners working in the community are further restricted by their location.

Hospital medical staff

3.3 Medical staff require information to deal with specific clinical problems, for teaching, research and preparing talks and public-

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ations, for administration and to keep themselves up-to-date with their subject.

3.4 The core literature of clinical medicine is well covered by international databases, which are available both as printed indexes such as Index Medicus and their on-line computer equivalents such as MEDLINE. More specialised systems which index narrow segments of the literature or analyse it from a specific viewpoint are being developed. However, some aspects are still poorly covered, notably general practice and community medicine, and the borderline areas between clinical medicine and other disciplines in the physical, biological and social sciences.

3.5 The continuing growth in medical literature and the conflicting pressures on clinicians' time may inhibit library use. To provide an effective service to busy clinicians it is *proposed* that a library service should provide:

- a. effective information retrieval and document delivery services, offering information relevant to specific clinical problems obtained from a full range of published sources;
- b. current awareness services tailored to the needs and interests of individuals;
- c. learning resources in support of postgraduate and continuing medical education; and
- d. adequate publicity for library facilities and services.

Nursing and paramedical staff

3.6 As greater emphasis is placed on continuing education and professional accountability, clinical nursing and paramedical staff are making increasing demands on library services. Professional training in these disciplines now places emphasis on producing educated practitioners, not just competent operators. The

educators' role is to guide the student through a learning process rather than simply to feed information.

3.7 To meet these needs it is *proposed* that the library service:

- a. bring together literature from the biological, behavioural and social sciences in a way that is relevant to nursing and paramedical staff; and
- b. take the initiative in disseminating information rather than wait for users to come to the library.

3.8 Nurses and paramedical staff are becoming involved in research with increasing frequency. Literature relevant to these disciplines is widely scattered and may be difficult to locate. Existing databases, such as MEDLINE, do not give adequate coverage of UK health care literature, particularly in the paramedical fields. Specialist current awareness bulletins and abstracting services, such as Nursing Research Abstracts, help fill this gap, but more attention needs to be given to the development of such publications. Several professional bodies and other organisations provide current awareness bulletins, and these should be publicised.

3.9 Particular note should be taken of the problems encountered by paramedical professions because of their relatively small numbers and lack of influence; library services will need to collaborate to provide for their interests.

Community health professionals

- 3.10 The information needs of health professionals working in the community, including general practitioners, are influenced by:
- a. the need to adjust hospital-based training to community health problems;

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- b. the wide range of patients and conditions seen; and
- c. the social element in community care, which requires a detailed knowledge of available statutory and voluntary services.

3.11 Special factors affecting the use of library services are:

- a. dispersed places of work and consequent communication problems; and
- b. lack of awareness of information services and sources.

3.12 In providing a service for those working in the community, which will usually be based on a main library in the district general hospital, it is *proposed* that consideration be given to the following:

- a. access outside normal hours, for example, evening opening;
- b. location of the library close to other general service areas and adequate car parking;
- c. easy telephone access for enquiries and requests, possibly complemented by computer links;
- d. provision of a service to deliver literature to the place of work;
- e. a mobile library in rural areas; and
- f. promoting and publicising the services available.

3.13 It is also *proposed* that the library service provide literature aimed at encouraging self-care, and other educational material which can be distributed to patients and their relatives.

Managers

3.14 Managers of all disciplines need information to aid decision-making. This information must match the specific enquiry being made and be evaluated for accuracy and timeliness as well as

relevance. Because of the wealth of information potentially available, selection and effective presentation are required to highlight the key points.

3.15 The relationship between the district library service and the information service for senior managers is referred to in paragraph 2.16. Library provision for management should ensure that the required information is freely and easily available to all those involved in the management process, subject to the constraints of confidentiality. To do this, cooperation is needed between information handlers at all levels and encompassing all types of information – statistical, bibliographical, published and unpublished. Information technology will be central to this approach. Further discussion of these key issues will be found in *Converting data into information*.⁶

3.16 An important component of a management information service is the indexing, storage and retrieval of reports, project papers and other documents produced within the authority. A computer system which performs these functions (developed for Cambridge Health Authority) is described in a previous publication in this series, *Introducing IT in the district office*.⁴ Documents likely to be useful to staff in other authorities should be referred to the DHSS library for indexing (see paragraph 4.7).

3.17 Attention also needs to be given to the requirements of:

- a. those studying for qualifications or improving their management skills; and
- b. specialist managers, such as works staff.

Emergency services staff

3.18 Staff dealing with emergencies require information quickly. For

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currency, accuracy and speed of access an on-line data base will usually provide the most appropriate form of service. Useful national resources could include: poisons information, drug information, infectious disease trends, and blood products and transplant data. Local databanks might cover hospital resources, major accident procedures and laboratory investigation requirements. Often the information would be accessed directly by a clinician rather than through a librarian for reasons of speed or confidentiality. In some cases the library terminal will be used to provide access to these databanks. The librarian should contribute to training in the use of on-line systems and advise on choice of equipment.

Consumers of health care

- 3.19 Library provision for health service consumers, who include patients or clients, their relatives and the general public, is not well developed at present. To promote awareness of the NHS and an informed approach to health, information should be readily available which:
- a. indicates the range of statutory and voluntary services available, and how they operate; and
 - b. increases understanding of the professional advice offered, improves cooperation with treatment and helps to alleviate fears.
- 3.20 A district library service, in providing a service to the consumer, will have to liaise closely with health education staff, the public library network and voluntary organisations. Information may be provided directly to the consumer or through a health care professional.

Chapter 4: Regional and national resources

Introduction

4.1 A district library service cannot by itself command the range of expertise or materials necessary to provide a complete range of facilities. It can, however, form a point of access to regional, national and international information networks. Technological aspects of such links are described in Chapter 5. In this Chapter attention is paid to:

- a. regional resources and coordination, and
- b. national resources and coordination.

Regional resources

4.2 Some RHAs have appointed a regional librarian to coordinate district library services within the region; and other regions may wish to consider this approach. The role of a regional librarian is to:

- a. plan library services in relation to NHS activities and staff needs, in collaboration with libraries in the districts;
- b. provide services and facilities more appropriately managed at regional level, for example, lists of periodicals, shared cataloguing, on-line services and in-service training;
- c. ensure that adequate attention is given to small specialist groups;
- d. coordinate the activities of district library services;

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- e. encourage the integrated administration of district library services;
- f. advise health authorities on the introduction of information technology and the development of appropriate documentary information systems;
- g. ensure that, where appropriate, library services are represented in district and regional plans;
- h. assist in developing criteria for the evaluation of library services by health authorities and other bodies concerned with the education and training of NHS staff; and
- i. liaise and cooperate with non-NHS library systems.

4.3 The advantages of a regional library function include improved effectiveness and cost savings arising from:

- a. more effective deployment of professional library staff;
- b. opportunities for training, continuing education and maintenance of professional standards;
- c. a wider basis for coordinating stocks and services; and
- d. a framework for coordination at national level.

4.4 Regional management, planning and scientific staff also require a library service. It is *proposed* that each regional headquarters should have a professionally staffed library which:

- a. serves the needs of regional staff; and
- b. acts as a regional resource.

4.5 Libraries in teaching hospitals, and in universities or polytechnics which offer health care courses, may also be seen as regional resources. Wherever possible, arrangements should be made for

such facilities to be available for use by NHS staff.

National resources

4.6 At the national level, libraries and information services provided by government bodies, professional associations and by the voluntary and private sectors offer extensive concentrations of material and expertise. Organisations which offer current awareness bulletins and abstracts journals, or on-line access to databases, are another major external source of information.

4.7 MEDLINE, produced by the National Library of Medicine, is the major database in the clinical field. The DHSS Library has now established a complementary database of all material catalogued in the library and of individual articles appearing in its bulletins. This database, known as 'DHSS Data'⁷, includes:

- a. DHSS circulars and publications;
- b. planning and management documents submitted by health authorities; and
- c. material relating to non-clinical aspects of community health care, social services, paramedical and nursing services.

On-line access to these and other databases will be of great value to the NHS.

4.8 To make the most effective use of library services there is a need to develop national arrangements for coordination. It is *proposed* that consideration be given to:

- a. developing policy for NHS library services in the context of an overall information strategy;
- b. encouraging coordination and mutual support between the library resources of the DHSS and NHS;

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- c. supporting the regional library function;
- d. coordinating research into the need for, and ways of providing, library services in the NHS;
- e. improving NHS access to external documentary information systems and promoting the development of new systems where necessary; and
- f. promoting the development of criteria and performance indicators for evaluating library services.

Chapter 5: Information technology and the library

Introduction

5.1 The efficiency with which libraries store documents and retrieve and disseminate information can be enhanced by the use of technologies such as:

- a. information technology (IT): the combined application of computer and telecommunications technologies;
- b. audiovisual media, including tape/slide and videotape; and
- c. reprography, in particular photocopying and microfilm.

5.2 Although the provision of up-to-date reprographic and audiovisual equipment is essential to a modern library service, it is the new information technology that will result in major changes in the way information is handled. Information technology involves the use of computers, microelectronics and telecommunications to produce, store and send information in the form of pictures, words or numbers.

5.3 Library services must be based on organisational networks. Modern technology has the potential to provide an electronic network which will match the organisational arrangements discussed in previous chapters. A fully developed network will offer access to a range of local, national and international resources through low-cost intelligent terminals, widely distributed in convenient locations

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in the work place, where those needing information are able to use them. A local microcomputer will serve as a terminal giving access, via the telephone or dedicated data networks, to local information banks at district and regional offices, to public databases and to information on other microcomputers. The results of a search on an external system can be edited and then stored in a personal, departmental or library file.

5.4 Within the NHS the main technical elements of an information network relevant to library services are:

- a. access to national and international on-line databases;
- b. local systems for information handling at district and regional level;
- c. microcomputers acting as terminals at the local or departmental level; and
- d. an efficient telecommunications network to link together these three elements.

On-line databases

5.5 On-line services offering access from local terminals to national and international databases are a major application of information technology in both the scientific and business worlds. Within the NHS, on-line access has concentrated on bibliographic databases in the clinical field, with MEDLINE occupying a dominant position. Databases in new subject areas, some carrying more information than the simple bibliographic record, are now emerging. Current developments include:

- a. The DHSS Library database (see paragraph 4.7).
- b. Full-text databases allowing both searching and retrieval of the full text of journal articles and books. Graphic material can be

held on videodiscs at a local terminal.

- c. On-line access to large library catalogues.
- d. Collections of evaluated data, for example, Martindale's pharmaceutical database.
- e. Knowledge bases providing information on diagnosis, prognosis and treatment, compiled and updated by medical experts.
- f. Systems which facilitate direct access by the user. Linked to this development are services designed to allow the professional to access databases outside normal working hours at very low cost from a home computer.
- g. Computer-assisted learning programs, for example, mock examinations.

Local systems

5.6 Applications of information technology in the district office are discussed in a previous publication in this series, *Introducing IT in the district office*.⁴ Statistical and textual information in district and regional offices can be handled by several types of computer package, including:

- a. in-house videotex (viewdata),
- b. text retrieval,
- c. database management, and
- d. word processing.

All these systems represent information sources which can be accessed from a local terminal.

The local terminal

5.7 A terminal may be required at unit or department level, or in a

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library or individual office, to give access to:

- a. external databases at district, regional, national or international levels; and
- b. local computing facilities such as word processing, information retrieval from district databases and the maintenance of local records.

5.8 It is *proposed* that a microcomputer would be the most appropriate type of terminal. The essential requirement for the information user is that one terminal should access the different types of information required. Good communications features should rank highly as a factor in choosing the hardware. Effective access will curb the unnecessary duplication of databases and facilitate the sharing of information.

Telecommunications

5.9 The existing public telephone network is likely to provide the main means of access to the information network in the immediate future. Ease of access to modern telephone systems is therefore essential. Dedicated data transmission networks are beginning to be installed in districts between administrative headquarters and the major hospitals. There is clearly a trade-off between telephone costs and the more efficient use of staff time.

Developing a network

5.10 The development of IT for library services must take place within the context of:

- a. national and international library information networks; and
- b. NHS information systems concerned with both statistical and textual data.

Close cooperation between the various disciplines concerned will enable the cost-effective sharing of skills and technology.

5.11 It is proposed that health authorities should ensure that, as far as resources permit, library services are equipped to take advantage of developments in IT, taking particular account of the following principles:

- a. The development of electronic networks should take account of existing organisational networks, the information needs of users, and the most appropriate means of dissemination.
- b. Networks should be sufficiently flexible to accommodate and encourage individual initiatives in information technology.
- c. Attention should be paid to the appropriate level for the creation of a database – unit, district, regional or national.
- d. Information about developments within districts should be widely disseminated to avoid duplication of effort in securing suitable hardware and software.

Appendix A

MEMBERSHIP OF JOINT WORKING PARTY

Chairman: Professor G Dick, formerly Postgraduate Dean,
South West Thames RHA

Regional Librarians' Group

Mr M Carmel, Regional Librarian, South Western RHA
Dr P Leggate, Regional Librarian, Oxford RHA
Mr D Linton, Regional Librarian, Northern Ireland
Mr R Tabor, Regional Librarian, Wessex RHA

Department of Health and Social Security

Dr J Andrew	
Dr R Brotherwood	
Dr F H Brown	
Mr R Chapman	
Mr P Davies	} Secretariat to NHS/DHSS Health Services Information Steering Group
Mr M Dunning	
Mrs M Fry	
Miss A Kahn	
Dr S Lelean	
Dr P Mason	
Mr J Wormald	

Appendix B

CHAIRMEN AND SPEAKERS AT THE WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCE

Four workshops were held, each of which concentrated on the library needs of different groups of NHS staff. These were followed by a conference encompassing all professional groups, which took as its starting point the reports of the workshops. Participants in the workshops were representative of the interests of management, clinical practice, education and research, and of staff based in hospitals, in the community, and in authority headquarters. Librarians serving different professional groups also attended.

Because of the large numbers involved (over 100), only the names of the chairman and speakers for each workshop and the final conference are given.

Library and information services for NHS managers

A workshop held at the King's Fund Centre on 4 May 1983

Chairman: Mr K Morton, Assistant Director, King's Fund Centre

Speakers: Mr J M Dunning, Secretariat, NHS/DHSS Health Services
Information Steering Group
Mr A P Leahy, Regional Planning Officer, Oxford RHA
Dr S Bond, Nursing Research Liaison Officer, Northern RHA
Dr J N Todd, District Medical Officer, Sheffield DHA
Mr P Vickers, Manager, Information and Consultancy Group, ASLIB
Mr R Tabor, Regional Librarian, Wessex RHA

(Participants also included a training officer, a works officer, a district treasurer, a district information services manager, a regional statistician, a district administrator, a district nursing officer and specialists in community medicine.)

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The library needs of the nursing profession

A workshop held at the Royal College of Nursing on Tuesday, 10 May 1983, with financial assistance from the Joint Board for Clinical Nursing Studies.

Chairman: Mr D Rye, Director of Professional Activities, RCN

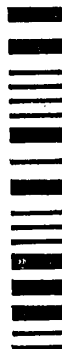
Speakers: Dr J Wilson-Barnett, Department of Nursing Studies, Chelsea College
Miss S Docking, Director of Nurse Education, St Bartholomew's
School of Nursing
Miss B Vaughan, Clinical Tutor, Oxford
Miss B Miller, Staff Tutor, Oxford
Mrs S Stephen, Librarian, Bristol and Weston School of Nursing
Mr G Walton, Librarian, Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic
Dr P Leggate, Regional Librarian, Oxford RHA
Mr J Mills, Regional Librarian, South East Thames RHA

Information services for clinical medicine

A workshop at the Royal Society of Medicine on 30 September 1983, with financial assistance from the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust.

Chairman: Professor G Dick, Chairman, RLG/DHSS Working Party
on Library Services

Speakers: Dr G Batstone, Consultant Pathologist, Salisbury
Dr D Price, General Practitioner, Walton-on-Thames
Dr A T Proudfoot, Director, Poisons Information Bureau, Edinburgh
Ms S Noyce, Information Pharmacist, Northwick Park Hospital
Ms P Duckitt, Information Consultant
Mr M Carmel, Regional Librarian, South West Thames RHA



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The library needs of the paramedical professions

A workshop at the Polytechnic of Central London on Tuesday, 18 October 1983, with financial assistance from the Polytechnic.

Chairman: Dr P Leggate, Regional Librarian, Oxford RHA

Speakers: Dr J Mellerio, Polytechnic of Central London
Mrs M Ellis, District Occupational Therapist, London Hospital
Mr R Tabor, Regional Librarian, Wessex RHA

Converting information into care

A conference at the King's Fund Centre on Wednesday, 7 December 1983. The chairmen, speakers and some other participants from each of the workshops were invited to attend. The objective was to draw together the outcomes of the workshops.

Chairman: Professor G Dick, Chairman, RLG/DHSS Working Party
on Library Services

Speakers: Mr W G Cannon, Director, King's Fund Centre
Mr A H Leahy (reporting on the NHS managers workshop)
Dr D Price (reporting on the clinical medicine workshop)
Miss B Vaughan (reporting on the nursing workshop)
Mrs M Ellis (reporting on the paramedical workshop)
Mr M J Carmel

References

- 1 Cockerill, P E. Information and the practice of medicine: report of Medical Information Review Panel. British Library Research and Development Report No 5605, April 1981.
- 2 General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Library services. GNC Circular 80/12, April 1980.
- 3 Brophy V and Lovell R B. Report of a study of information services on training matters in the NHS. London, National Training Council, 1978.
- 4 NHS/DHSS Health Services Information Steering Group and the NHS Computer Policy Committee. Introducing IT in the district office: proposals arising from a study carried out in the Southend Health District by ASLIB Research and Consultancy in 1982. London, King's Fund, 1983.
- 5 NHS/DHSS Health Services Information Steering Group. Developing a district IT policy: proposals formulated by members of a workshop held in June 1983. London, King's Fund, 1983.
- 6 NHS/DHSS Health Services Information Steering Group. Converting data into information: proposals formulated by members of two workshops held in March 1982. London, King's Fund, 1982.
- 7 DHSS Data. The on-line database of the Department of Health and Social Security Library. Details from DATA STAR, 5th Floor, Plaza Suite, 114 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6HJ.

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