The Nursing e-Resources Task Force was established by the LALINC Executive Board in the Fall of 2013 and charged with “reviewing the current content in LOUIS-purchased nursing e-resources and reporting...on their recommendation for changes.” Members of the TaskForce are: Debbie Sibley & Mary L. Marix, (LSUHSC-NO) co-chairs, Carita Alexander (ULM), Patricia Brown (LSU-E), Paula Craig (Northwestern), Emily Deal (ULL), Bonnie Hines (LSU-A), Jessica Hutchings (McNeese), Margaret Keller (NTCC), and Katherine Rolfes (SLCC). LOUIS staff serve ex officio.

The Task Force’s charge is important because of the 49 LOUIS members, 24 (49%) have nursing programs which allow their graduates to sit for the NCLEX, the National Council Licensure Examination, which allows them to practice as Registered Nurses (RN). In addition, seven more LOUIS members on 16 campuses offer education preparing the student to practice as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).

The Task Force met via conference call on December 16th, 2013 and in person in Lafayette on February 18th, 2014. It looked at LOUIS resources which had applicability to nursing separating them into those of primary importance and those of secondary importance. The TF members discussed the use of these resources at their institutions and designed a survey to get similar input from both librarians and faculty at all of the LOUIS member institutions. 70 responses were received. The TF members then evaluated the survey results and identified a number of items of interest. (Survey results are available upon request.) No LOUIS databases were identified as being unnecessary because the levels of nursing education offered by LOUIS members range from the LPN requiring one year of study through the Doctor of Nursing Science and Doctor of Nursing Practice which require advanced study and scholarly inquiry.

Trials of the identified resources are in progress. So far, MEDLINE Complete, the Cochrane Library, Health & Psychosocial Instruments (HaPI), Nursing Reference Center and DynaMed, all from EBSCO, have had trials. Future trials will include Stat!Ref’s nursing package, Wiley Library’s e-books, American Nurses Association’s (ANA) e-books, particularly the Scope and Standards of Practice, and UpToDate. When there is enough interest and acceptable pricing can be established then mini-consortia are set-up. So far, only MEDLINE Complete has resulted in a mini consortium. HaPI and Nursing Reference Center already had mini-consortia established.