The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has been the voice of nursing since 1916, publishing guidance, reports and policies in support of its members.

Today, the challenges of nursing shortages, Brexit and now the tragic COVID-19 pandemic has required a rapid response from the RCN. The corresponding rise in born-digital publications has presented new challenges and opportunities for the library and archive team as they work to provide swift access to the RCN’s output and history.

The RCN digital archive is a key tool in capturing and preserving this rich history as it happens.

The role of the digital archive:
- Accessible to all online, the archive provides access to a selection of key historical resources relating to the history of nursing. RCN members can also research their voting history, tracing the development of key RCN polices using the members-only area of the digital archive.
- The flow chart illustrates the journey RCN publications take from publication to the digital archive. The library and archive team manage the life-cycle of publications, balancing access to out-dated resources with providing timely access to key resources from the history or nursing.

To explore the archive please visit the RCN website https://rcn.access.preservica.com/

Picture credit: RCN Archives, Ref: P/18/76/7