Editorial

HLG is looking for a suitable candidate to become Honorary Chair. I am sure that you are all thinking one of two things; either, I wouldn’t do a good enough job or I haven’t got time for that. Well,

You wouldn’t be expected to work in isolation. We currently have a strong committee who all contribute and lead on various projects such as responding to policy, provision for CPD for our members and the development of core collection reading guides amongst many other projects. The committee are there to support you in your time as Chair and be guided by your direction. Most importantly we have somewhere in the region of 1500 members who are at the end of email, telephone and love to meet the Chair at whatever events they may attend.

HLG is a voluntary group and everyone understands that your time is valuable. On the other hand there are 1500 members to look out for so a few days a year to attend committee meetings (expenses paid), act as a liaison between HLG and CILIP and respond to emails is not a big ask. The Honorable posts are only for one year and the committee would be delighted for you to join us.

Think about it over your turkey or nut loaf and if you are interested in becoming Chair please get in touch with the current Secretary Sarah Lawson sarah.lawson@kcl.ac.uk and she will be happy to give you more information.

Also, this is my last issue. I am delighted to announce that Elise Collins, our current Diary of Events editor, will be taking over from me in 2009. I would like to thank you all for your submissions and ask that you send future meeting reports and articles directly to her elise.collins@nccc.wales.nhs.uk. Elsie will be looking for a replacement column editor so watch out for the email on HLG-Members mailing list! If you are not on the list sign up today by going to http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/hlg-members and follow the onscreen instructions.

Did you feel like you did enough in 2008 or would you like to make more of a contribution in 2009? I am sure it could be your year!

With very best wishes

Emily Harker, Editor
Group news

Health Information and Libraries Journal

The contents of the December 2008 issue are as follows:

**Review article**
Bibliotherapy for mental health service users Part 1: a systematic review
Deborah Fanner, Christine Urquhart

**Original articles**
Understanding the information and resource needs of UK health and social care placement students
Lynne Callaghan, Alan Doherty, Susan J. Lea, Daniel Webster

Meeting health information needs of people with HIV/AIDS: sources and means of collaboration
Laura O'Grady

From UHSL to UHMLG: the evolution of a group for health librarians in higher education
Maurice Wakeham

Levels of consciousness and awareness about evidence-based medicine among consultants in tertiary health care institutions in Nigeria
Williams Nwagwu

A computer literacy skills profile of pharmacists residing in two counties of England
Peter Thomas, Paul M. Rutter

Applying evidence in the real world: a case study in library and information practice
Ruth M. Sladek, Jennifer Tieman

**Regular Features**
International perspectives and initiatives
Health and medical informatics in Croatia
Josipa Kern

Learning and teaching in action
Mentoring: supporting the library and information professional?
Joanna Ptolomey

Using evidence in practice
Unpacking your literature search toolbox: on search styles and tactics
A Booth

*Penny Bonnett, Assistant Editor, Health Information and Libraries Journal*
Special Issue: 25th Anniversary Celebratory Issue
Volume 25 Issue s1, December 2008

Available free online http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/121510453/issue

Guest Editorial
Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes
Andrew Booth

The Evolution of the Journal
From kitchen table to electronic editorial office: the evolution of the journal
Penny Bonnett

Analysis of throughput over 25 years
Penny Bonnett

Reflections from the editors: a triptych
S. Godbolt, J. Palmer, G. Walton

2008 Onwards
Graham Walton, Penny Bonnett

Celebrating a 25-year partnership
Martin Tilly

25 Years of Learning and Teaching in Action
Learning and Teaching Retrospective
Margaret E. S. Forrest

Emily Harker

Current status and future prospects
Alison Brettle

25 Years of Information Technology in Libraries
Information Technology: Retrospective
Betsy Anagnostelis

Steve Glover

Challenges for the next 25 years
Ian McKinnell

25 Years of Using Evidence in Practice
Using Evidence in Practice: Retrospective
Andrew Booth
Linda Ward, Sarah Sutton, Pip Divall, Louise Hull

Current status and future prospects
K. Ann McKibbon, Meghan K. Gamsby

**Widening Panoramas: Incorporating Health Informatics and International Perspectives**
Widening Panoramas: Retrospective
Jeannette Murphy

Jean G. Shaw, Shane Godbolt

Widening panoramas: current status and future prospects
Reinhold Haux

**Future Perspectives**
Ubiquitous but unfinished: grand challenges for information retrieval
William Hersh

Future of academic and health libraries: personal perspectives
Margaret Haines, Joanne Gard Marshall

J. A. Muir Gray

A National Health Knowledge Network to support the patient journey
Ann Wales

Future visions for continuing professional development in health librarianship: an Australian perspective
Ann Ritchie

**Some Views from Our Readers**
Sub-Group News

IFM Healthcare

Committee Changes
Rosie Stark, Publicity Co-ordinator has resigned from the committee. The committee would like to extend their warmest appreciation and thanks to Rosie for her contribution to IFMH over the years.
Adrienne Speake of the National Library for Health will be joining us as Joint Study-Day Co-ordinator, Samantha Unamboowe-Seneviratne will be taking over as Secretary and Elisabeth Barry replaces Rosie as Publicity Co-ordinator. We wish them all well in their new roles.

AGM
The 17th IFMH Annual General Meeting, deferred from September, took place on Thursday 27th November 2008 at the CRD in York. The accounts, business plan and revised membership structure were presented and approved.

IFMH Members Discussion List
Our discussion list has moved to JISCmail. All associate and subscriber members will be joined automatically. You’ll receive details on how to use the discussion list shortly. To post to the list email ifmh-members@jiscmail.ac.uk. The discussion list’s address is http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=ifmh-members

INFORM on http://www.ifmh.org.uk
INFORM18(1) is now available on our website http://www.ifmh.org.uk/inform/18_1.pdf. If you would like to contribute an article to the next edition of INFORM, Winter 19(2), please contact Dr Alan Lovell at Alan.Lovell@bazian.com.

Committee Elections
Elections for committee posts will be held in March 2009. Officers up for election, include Chair; Treasurer and Membership Secretary; Secretary; Web editor; 1 x Joint Study Day Co-ordinator; 2 x INFORM Joint Editors, 2 x Committee members. Official notification and details will be published in the next edition of INFORM.

Richard Bridgen, Chair, IFM Healthcare

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Libraries for Nursing (LfN)

No news this session

Jane Shelley, Chair, Libraries for Nursing

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Limited Access to Foreign Medical Literature in Russia

Sergei V. Jargin MD, Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, seja@medicon.cz

Introduction
Access to foreign professional (including medical) literature has always been limited in the Soviet Union. In recent times, due to an improvement in the economy, some hospitals have started purchasing foreign handbooks, but their quantity remains insufficient. On the other hand, acquisition of foreign literature by medical libraries has decreased since the 1980s. Costs of full-text articles via the Internet are usually not covered by employers.

Central Scientific Medical Library
The Central Scientific Medical Library in Moscow has the largest collection of medical literature in the whole CIS (the former Soviet Union). According to the official website http://www.scsml.rssi.ru, the Library possesses about 3 millions units of literature (over 1,5 millions of titles); around 400 thousands units are loaned out to the readers yearly. About 120 thousands specialists from Moscow and different regions of Russia and CIS visit the Library yearly. The Library is situated in a spacious building constructed in 1978. There is enough room both for readers and for personnel; and a large reading hall occupying the whole top store has been closed since the early 1990s. The Library has some well-known manuals and monographs in different medical disciplines, although most of them are not of the last edition. Acquisition of foreign medical books and journals has decreased since the 1980s. Many journal denominations, available in the past, cannot be obtained today. According to the Library’s website, it receives regularly 371 foreign medical journals, but not all of them are available to the readers: after several years the journals are transferred from the department of current periodicals not to the main depository but to the basement, from where they are then not available for loan (Fig. 1).

In the department of current periodicals many journals are in disarray, some issues lacking, which is the case not only for foreign but also for domestic editions. Altogether, journals of more than 200 denominations are in the cellar, among them, American Journals of Medicine, Atherosclerosis, Clinical Science, Cell, Lancet, Nature, Virchows Archiv and many others (Fig. 2 a-h). Interestingly, the journals issued before 1990 can be obtained from the main depository, but the same editions from the later years cannot, although many of them are not received by any other library in the country. Some journals are deposited in the cellar immediately after coming in, thus being totally unavailable. Along with some English-language editions (for example, Chemist + Druggist and Australian Journal of Pathology), in the basement are almost all journals from Italy (e.g. Minerva series), Japan, Hispanic, Slavic and other countries, with publications both in English and in national languages.
In the 1990s, working conditions at the Library worsened, suffice it to say that in the years 1990-97 heating in winter functioned very irregularly and was in fact totally out months on end, so that doctors worked in the reading halls in fur coats. The number of readers dwindled, which was partly caused by switch of interests towards economy and by decline of scientific research. The number of readers has increased again during last years, but remains visibly below the level of 1980s. The official statistics presented on the Library’s website (about 400,000 units of literature given out to 120,000 visitors yearly) are probably overstated. No surprise that foreign literature is on average scarcely quoted in Russian scientific publications today. Something like “neoclassical style” has appeared: well-known phenomena, disease entities, morphological changes etc. are described without referring to foreign literature, which can be misunderstood as global newness.1-4 In some extensive reviews just singular foreign sources are quoted, most of them – books translated into Russian.5 Extensive borrowings with verbatim translations from foreign literature, without reference given to the source, are known as well.6-8

Some readers have complained about shortage of literature and other problems by the management of the Library. Library administration explained everything by poor financing, old equipment and personnel shortage. In fact, however, financing has improved since the year 2000 together with the whole economical climate in the country. In 2001 the Library was incorporated into I.M. Sechenov Medical Academy, a leading educational and scientific institution, which has obviously improved financing. Since then, the heating has functioned uninterruptedly. Nonetheless, supply of foreign literature has not been improved.

**Other Libraries**
The second large collection of medical literature is in the Russian State Library (http://www.rsl.ru/index.php?lang=en) in Moscow. This Library is not so easy to use for practicing physicians: execution time of an order is about two hours; literature cannot be obtained after 2:45 p.m., so that one has to order it and come again next day. There is no online ordering of literature. The number of foreign journals has also decreased during last years. Admittedly, full-text articles from some journals are available in electronic
form. It is the case, for example, for *The Lancet*: the Library does not receive it on paper since the year 2002, but the articles from newer issues are available online for a fee.

Access to literature has always been hindered additionally by different inconveniences, perceived by readers as organizational shortcomings. For example, new journals were kept in the department of current periodicals for about two years and then sent for binding where they stayed for absurdly long time – up to a year. After that, if a reader takes a bunch of journals bound together, they become unavailable to others. Since the mid 1990s, large-scale repairs have been performed in the Library, while great part of literature has not been given out. Some literature, including almost all domestic newspapers and many books and journals in German, Italian and other languages, are in the library division in the suburb town of Khimki.

Libraries at universities and other institutions, as well as medical libraries in other cities, have much lesser stock. In particular, only a very limited number of foreign medical handbooks and manuals are available, most of them being quite old. There is no system of ordering and sending literature from one library to another.

**Discussion**

Limited availability of foreign professional literature hinders advancement of research and practice as well as integration with international scientific community. The attitude to foreign literature described above is too irrational to be explained by mere negligence. The pretext about lacking room is invalid: the building of the Central Scientific Medical Library is spacious, the whole top floor is not used; some other rooms are occupied by commercial firms, a bookshop, dental practice etc. However, insufficient capacity of the main depository remains the official explanation, why new foreign journals are placed into the moist basement. One day the administration will hear critical voices and take measures. Foreign journals will be placed into the duly equipped main depository, and the ample Soviet-time scientific literature -- into the cellar: most researchers and professionals, especially those of younger generations, regard it to be useless anyway. An inundation in the cellar will come again: no surprise, it has already happened to the foreign journals. In this way, ample documentary evidence of falsification and plagiarism from foreign sources, quite common during the Soviet period, will be destroyed. So long this literature is catalogued and preserved in the main depository, it would not be easy to take it away from public access. Scanning of literature was prohibited in the libraries recently -- probably because of the same considerations. Previously we reported several cases of scientific misconduct in the former Soviet Union.\(^5-8\)

In conclusion, about solutions: actually we should learn from foreign experience how to organize libraries and supply with professional literature. In particular, some East- and Middle-European countries, former members of the Eastern Block, could provide positive examples. Free online availability of full-text journal articles and other professional literature would be an optimal solution.

**Bibliography**

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2. Ulanova VI, Zinzerling VA. Clinical and morphological characteristics of infective endocarditis in HIV-infected drug addicts. *Arkhiv Patologii (Moscow)* 2006, 68 (3), 14-18
5 Perov Yu.L. Tubular interstitial pathology of the kidney (on 25th anniversary of the WHO Expert Committee Classification). *Arkhiv Patologii (Moscow)* 2008, 70 (1), 13-16
8 Jargin SV. Cell culture as a testing system for lipid-lowering substances. Abstracts of the 3rd Intercontinental Congress of pathology. *Virchows Arch* 2008, 452 (Suppl 1), S34

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Internet sites of interest

Sports medicine

A corrigendum and an addendum

First of all, Lynn Balmforth, Information Officer and Librarian at the National Childbirth Trust, kindly contacted me to let me know that the NCT website is now at www.nct.org.uk, rather than the address given in September’s column. She also alerted me to Birth Choices, http://www.birthchoices.co.uk/. This is run by two women, one a midwife. Its mission statement, at http://www.birthchoices.co.uk/, includes providing accurate unbiased information, trying to decrease the medicalisation of birth, and giving a voice to women who have had difficulty with maternity services. My thanks to Lynn for that information.

In this month’s column, the topic that would have been more topical last time (see September’s column for the excuse), sports medicine and related areas. All links were checked on 14th November 2008.

About.com
I have only recently investigated About.com. It is owned by the New York Times, and each section (“channel”) is edited by someone (a “guide”) with some knowledge of the field, appointed by the company. The sports medicine part is at http://sportsmedicine.about.com/. There is a blog, and a discussion forum.

American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine
http://www.aapsm.org/
Many useful looking articles on lower extremity injuries and issues in sport – socks and your feet, chronic compartment syndrome, golf and your feet, for three.

American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine
www.sportsmed.org
Includes Patient information and a 3 D surgical animation library, as well as the AOSSM Online Library of educational materials. There may be a charge to access the full text, although searching is free.
BioLab
http://www.biolab.org.uk/
A HEFCE funded project to develop biomechanics learning resources for sport related degree and HND courses. Some materials are available to download.

British Association of Sport and Exercise Medicine (BASEM)
http://www.basem.co.uk/
The oldest sport and exercise medical association in the UK, a member of EFSMA (www.efsma.net) and FIMS (mentioned below).

British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences
http://www.bases.org.uk
“The professional body for sport and exercise sciences in the UK”. Site includes a course finder, and BASES Network includes blogs, podcasts and online Q and A sessions.

British Psychological Society Division of Sports and Exercise Psychology
http://www.bps.org.uk/spex/spex_home.cfm
Links to publications and other sites of interest.

Coaching Science Abstracts
http://coachsci.sdsu.edu/
Compiled by Brent Rushall of San Diego State University. Professor Rushall abstracts research articles for the benefit of practising coaches, and the abstracts can be browsed or searched. There are no links to full text but the site may help locate relevant literature. Each issue is themed, and the articles reviewed may not be from the current year.

Drug Information Database (UK Sport)
http://www.uksport.gov.uk/pages/drug_information_database/
This is the information page, with a link to the database itself, which gives information on the status of UK licensed medications in sport. Subject to accepting the terms and conditions of the site, you enter your role (athlete, etc.), sport, where you bought the medication (Canada, Asia, UK), and the active ingredient.

E medicine: Sports Medicine
http://www.emedicine.com/sports/
Collection of online articles.

Gatorade Sports Science Institute
My eldest son seems always to be bringing home from school some new educational venture, sponsored by someone or other. My negative feelings about this made me initially rather sceptical of this site. The Institute is based in Illinois, and researches particularly nutrition and hydration issues, although the website has information on sports psychology and injuries as well. The name suggests a link to the drink (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gatorade!) but the GSSI is included in Intute, has an advisory board, and the drink and its manufacturer are mentioned only under “Affiliated links” (under “About us”). So I have included it here!
Institute for Preventative Sports Medicine  
www.ipsm.org  
US based institute, who have conducted some useful looking research, although the details on the site are rather scant. Projects have included cognitive impairment caused by heading soccer balls, and chest impact induced arrhythmia in baseball.

International Federation of Sports Medicine  
http://www.fims.org/  
Includes position statements on things including doping, helmets, osteoporosis and sport, Wolff Parkinson White syndrome and sport.

International Federation of Sports Physiotherapy  
http://www.sportsphysiotherapyforall.org/  
Publications include eBibliographies, which are lists of useful links on sports related topics.

MedlinePlus contains pages on Sports Fitness, Sports Injuries and Sports Safety – use the A to Z index page at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/healthtopics_s.html to link to these, and follow links from those pages to more specific pages (for example, ankle injuries)

World Anti Doping Agency  
http://www.wada-ama.org/en/  
The Prohibited List and Therapeutic Use Exemptions list are available from here.

Keith Nockels, Information Librarian, University of Leicester  
Contributions should be sent to khn5@le.ac.uk

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Meeting reports


Nature Network (the social networking site for scientists) sponsored this event, along with the Royal Institution (RI) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The conference was held at the newly refurbished RI (now a great venue for a small conference and a cool new scientific drop-in venue). There was a mix of real-world and virtual attendees – many delegates had laptops with them and were typing furiously to create a real-time online account of proceedings. Another interesting feature was the “unconference” session, of which more later.

Ben Goldacre (writer of the BadScience blog and Guardian column) was the keynote speaker. He suggested that bloggers do a better job of covering some health and scientific issues than the mainstream media (MSM). Bloggers give more in-depth coverage than MSM, which offers only limited space to science. The comments facility on most blogs means that any contentious or unsupported statements made by the blogger will be challenged by blog readers. Blogs are mainly evidence-based reporting, and they normally link to original documents, unlike MSM reporting. He outlined some of the reporting about Dore, the so-called cure for dyslexia, where the bloggers scored heavily over reporting by MSM. The anti-vaccination campaign by MSM following the MMR vaccine scare was another case where bloggers have been important in bolstering an evidence-based approach.

Three bloggers - Jennifer Rohn, Anna Kushnir and Grrl Scientist (sic) – then led a somewhat disjointed discussion about how the public perceive scientists. Their blogs all deal with aspects of scientific life. They considered that scientists are generally misunderstood, mainly because most people have never met a scientist and therefore have little idea about what they do. Their blogs try to bridge that gap and try to set the record straight about how science really works. Anna Kushnir admitted that her blog, started while she was a postgraduate student, was partly a support mechanism for her in battling with the stresses of postgrad life. Some discussion followed about the pros and cons of anonymity in blogging, and the level of institutional support or opposition that bloggers experience.

Three parallel sessions followed. One was on microblogging, one on creativity in blogging and one on how to enhance your blog.

I attended the session on microblogging, led by Matt Wood. He described Twitter as a way to fill the gaps between blog posts, a means of broadcasting small messages that don’t merit entire blog posts to themselves. He said that it is very easy to sign up, find some friends on Twitter and then to start Tweeting, and that it doesn’t take long to find your voice. It can take time to read everyone else’s posts though. He did admit that as your network of friends grows then the number of new items (called “Tweets”) for you to read in your Twitter feed can become very large, but he advised that it’s not necessary to read them all. Anything of interest will probably be commented on or responded to by others and hence appear again in your feed. I
suppose it’s a bit like the news – you don’t have to read every page of every newspaper and listen to every TV news broadcast in order to catch the main stories. Tweets can be used in a variety of ways – for organising a team, for collaborative work, even for seeing outputs from pieces of instrumentation.

Matt then described the benefits of feed aggregation sites such as FriendFeed. FriendFeed is a way to follow threads from your network of friends or contacts wherever they appear – on Flickr, Twitter, Slideshare, YouTube, blogs, rss feeds, etc. FriendFeed aggregates all these into a single feed for you and also provides space for commenting on them. It improves the signal to noise ratio and is more controllable than email. If you find you get too many items posted from a particular contact you can just remove that contact from your network. FriendFeed also has “rooms”, devoted to particular topics. The FriendFeed room for this conference gives an idea of the richness, and anarchy(!) of FriendFeed. Currently much FriendFeed activity is among early adopters – IT people, bioinformatics, librarians – but there is already a doctors’ room there.

After lunch there were three further parallel sessions. Oliver Obst (head of the medical library at the University of Munster) presented a session with Martin Fenner about blogs as teaching tools. Another session gave a tour of Second Life. I attended the session on communicating primary research publicly.

This was interesting – showcasing how blog and wiki software can be used for Open Notebook Science (ONS), where researchers make their laboratory notebooks and results freely available online. Jean-Claude Bradley explained his motivation (better and faster science) and methodology for adopting such an open approach. Heather Etchevers explained the nitty-gritty of what information should go into an electronic lab notebook, suggesting that different kinds of notebook may be needed for different kinds of information. ONS makes it easy to share information amongst members of the research team and external collaborators but it can be difficult to get information into the system in a busy laboratory environment. In discussion some concern was expressed about the dangers of revealing all your research secrets in advance of formal publication. This seems to be less of a problem in some non-biomedical fields but there can still be tricky ethical/legal issues.

In the morning we had been invited to propose session topics for an “unconference” session and then later we were asked to vote for which topics we wanted to hear. The winning three were “Why do we blog”, “Bored of blogging”, and “Tracking conversations through the blogosphere”. I attended the latter. It started with a plug for researchblogging.org, which is a way to track discussions of journal articles across the blogosphere. It links blog posts that discuss journal articles to the DOIs of those articles, and vice versa. It was suggested that something similar could be done to link blog posts about chemical structures, organisms, genes, drugs, other entities and possibly even topics in Wikipedia. Several semantic tools to help blog writers were mentioned – Zemanta and Ubiquity sounded interesting. Blogging is set to become a good deal more structured and discoverable through the growth of these semantic tools.

In the final session Peter Murray-Rust, Cameron Neylon and Richard Grant gave overall impressions of the day. Peter directed bloggers not to overstress about missing
days, weeks or even months on their blogs. The main thing was not to let it get boring. He praised the honesty and egalitarianism of science blogs. Cameron reiterated a comment from Ben Goldacre on microfame – suggesting that rather than being famous for fifteen minutes, bloggers can be famous to fifteen people. He also noted that blogging can be a way to move your career forward. Richard stressed the need to educate university administration about the benefits of blogging, in order to ensure it is officially supported. The following discussion touched on the citeability of blog posts (mentioning Webcite - an on-demand archiving system for webreferences), whether blog posts have to be perfect or just half-baked, the importance of blog commenting, the different categories of blogging, the use of blogs in communicating science to the public.

Finally, the panel issued a challenge to the audience, asking how can we get senior scientific staff to start blogging? They announced a prize for the person who succeeds in getting a senior scientist blogging. The winning blog will earn the chance to be included in The Open Laboratory: The Best Science Writing on Blogs 2008. The blogger and instigator will also each earn expenses-paid trips to Science Foo Camp, to be held summer 2009 at the Googleplex in Mountain View, CA.

Ben Goldacre’s blog “Bad Science”- [http://badscience.net/]
Martin Fenner’s blog “Gobbledygook” - [http://tinyurl.com/6bummq]
Oliver Obst’s blog - [http://medinfo.netbib.de/]
Matt Wood’s slides about FriendFeed - [http://tinyurl.com/4c9mvn]
Jean-Claude Bradley’s UsefulChem Project - [http://usefulchem.wikispaces.com/]
Peter Murray-Rust’s blog “A scientists and the web” - [http://tinyurl.com/5qb6n5]
Richard Grant’s blog “The Scientist” - [http://network.nature.com/people/rpg/blog]
Cameron Neylon’s blog “Science in the Open” - [http://tinyurl.com/6h5xn2]
Jennifer Rohn’s blog “Mind the Gap”- [http://tinyurl.com/5afffj]
Anna Kushnir’s blog “Lab life”- [http://tinyurl.com/5lk3oc]
Grrl Scientist’s blog “Living the scientific life” - [http://scienceblogs.com/grrlscientist/]
Frank Norman’s blog “Trading Knowledge” - [http://tinyurl.com/5fw3cz]
FriendFeed room for the conference - [http://tinyurl.com/6e8mdm]
Conference website - [http://tinyurl.com/6ada2y]
The blogging challenge - [http://tinyurl.com/6fcdjw]

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Frank Norman, Librarian, MRC National Institute for Medical Research
Making a positive impact upon health: success stories from London’s health libraries, Launch of the Alignment Toolkit, Wednesday 22nd October 2008

We were welcomed by Richard Osborn, Strategic Library Services Development Manager of NHS London to listen to six Case Studies where Knowledge, Library & Information Services had made a positive impact within their organisations; and to see if we could take any of the work so generously detailed to us and make it work within our own areas.

The context was set for the group by Paul Unsworth, a member of the Institute for Improvement & Innovation. We all know we support our users excellently, but how do we show this?

After Paul’s scene-setting, Sue Lacey Bryant launched the Toolkit. Sue’s enthusiasm is infectious and cheering; she explained cogently how using the Toolkit would demonstrate and recognise the excellent contribution health libraries make to the overall business. A portfolio of successful Case Studies has been created; each individual manager can take what can be used locally, and adapt this for their unit’s benefit. You are all urged to add to this portfolio – Do Once, and Share!

http://www.londonlinks.ac.uk/resources/alignment-toolkit

The simplicity of Sue’s idea – and the result – is brilliance. The sheet in our pack was pertinent to London (there was mention of the Darzi ‘polyclinics’), but, as Sue explained, the Toolkit can be adapted. Local needs for local people: that was the best way to demonstrate your support - and alignment – to your core business. She asked two questions of the group: how good are we at telling colleagues how fantastic we are? Far more important was the next question: how closely are we aligned to the organisation’s core business? If we are not, we can anticipate shrinking budgets and a diminution of influence. It really is important to get out there and persuade your ‘stakeholders’ how vital your service is.

Case Study 1
Christine Halpin spoke of HealthInform, a scheme to provide health information to disadvantaged groups within the Barnet PCT area. An arthritic Gujarati woman was able to receive specialist information in her own language, leading to a diminution of pain, and a beneficial decrease in weight. It took two years to get this service up & running; this was achieved with the aid of Lottery funding for two full-time employees.

Case Study 2
Mandy’s point was one which many of us have pondered: ‘We all do searches for users – but what happened next?’ Time spent refining a search led to 16 articles identified, 10 of which were included in a literature review. The detailed work done here led to the formulation of a strategy for promoting mental health and wellbeing of Irish residents in Islington. Two programmes are due to start in 2009: one in January, another in February.

Case Study 3
Claire Jones’ presentation was on a topic which interested me personally, having much enjoyed some recent hydrotherapy sessions for back problems. A search was undertaken to demonstrate the differences between land- and water-based physiotherapy, after total knee replacement. Such evidence as was found was inconclusive, so a randomised controlled trial was funded by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. Sadly (for me), hydrotherapy alone is not the answer: but the library is now undertaking more work in this area, to demonstrate their role in patient care. This has been brought to the notice of the CEO, as the critical dimension here is cost-effectiveness.

Case Study 4
This case study was about the Map of Medicine: I know there are some areas of the UK where this is not an IT priority (the East is one of them). Map of Medicine is a system that aims to provide equality of care throughout the UK. Within the Royal Free Hospital, Library staff check both national and local care guidelines, and they facilitate workshops to allow for clinicians’ evidence-based input. Changes are then made – live! If you live in an area where Map of Medicine is in play, do look at this, and get in touch with Sara.

Case Study 5
Richard Peacock’s presentation was on a Critically Appraised Topic: what evidence is there to connect the length of compression stockings and DVT prevention? Richard laid out the drivers - quality of patient care; the Trust’s varying practice and cost. Factors to take into account included clinical evidence; compliance; and adverse effects. After a comprehensive literature search and analysis, it was concluded that this Trust would supply only knee-length stockings - the cost saving was a staggering £90,000 pa. This was in 2004: since then, NICE has released three key documents, and CG 46 recommends thigh length; although NICE had failed to pick up the 2006 systematic review (DARE). The conflicting evidence will be put before the Clinical Guidelines Committee – what was the result?

Case Study 6
This was given by Alan Fricker who described how his Knowledge Alerts were started in response to the lack of uptake with ToCs – and how the idea was adapted from Rotherham PCT website! See: http://www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk/Library&Knowledge/LibraryServices.asp#News
The Alerts have options on frequency, method of delivery, language, currency of material. It asks the purpose of the information patient care or professional updating? An opt-out option is used rather and there is a specific mailbox for these Alerts to make it easier for library staff to manage.

After a break, Anne Weist took us through the background of the Toolkit, what it contains, where to find it (see below), and how it’s been independently tested. http://www.library.nhs.uk/forlibrarians/toolkits/impacttoolkit
Anne’s presentation emphasised sharing the knowledge, and how workshops may be set up.

Sarah Panzetta gave a useful outline of Survey Monkey. All a questionnaire can be is a snapshot at a particular moment in time. Getting the purpose of your survey right is
very important as it will influence your decision on what questions to ask, detail, or helicopter? Getting the answers is the start of the work – time is needed to analyse and write up the report. If you’re new to e-surveys, look at Sarah’s presentation, there’s much to think about there.

Sue Lacey Bryant wrapped up the afternoon, showing us the template for adding to the Case Studies – and you are all urged to do so! We broke into groups to discuss two points: how many ways can we use these case studies to champion the ways in which our libraries contribute to NHS priorities? And how can we incorporate impact measurement into our routine work? This visibly demonstrates our value to the organisation and to the wider NHS. With Sue’s final words ringing in our ears, we headed for home – “Don’t be bashful! Now is not the time for it!”

All presentations from the event can be viewed at http://www.londonlinks.ac.uk/resources/events/making-a-positive-impact-on-health-22-october-2008.

Zena Woodley, Library Resources Manager, Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford

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Book review


This is an important collection of papers about the ways in which the online behaviour of users of information has changed in recent years, and how information professionals should respond. It is intended to be a provocative book, a call to the library profession to wake up. An example of its style is given on page 6 of the introduction: “What is most concerning is that, despite the obvious writing on the wall, too many people are still attempting to defend traditional turf or territory and an obsolete information paradigm. Unfortunately the majority belong to the information profession.” In other words, librarians must change or die.

The evidence to support this charge is given in three key research papers. The first looks at the online behaviour of e-shoppers. A fascinating statistic is given that when researching a holiday, customers on average perform 12 searches visit 22 websites and take 29 days to make a purchase. Most people arrive at shopping sites from a search engine using generic rather than branded search terms. This shows that people are able to thoroughly research a topic, but do not have brand loyalty.

The core of the book is the paper on the information-seeking behaviour of the digital consumer, where we find that virtual scholars act like e-shoppers. The data comes from the logs of major electronic publishing sites such as ScienceDirect and Wiley Interscience. “In broad terms this behaviour can be portrayed as being active (frenetic), horizontal, bouncing, navigating/ checking and viewing in nature. It is also promiscuous, diverse and volatile” This behaviour is very different from what health librarians seek to inculcate in information literacy training sessions. The authors would argue that we should accept this and seek to build systems around the consumer. After all “the consumer is king”. That is of course true. But is a “bouncing” style of literature searching appropriate in matters potentially of life and death? The most appropriate piece of evidence could so easily be missed. There is surely a role here for the information specialist. Information overload may well be better than the information scarcity of the past, but it is of little help when something specific is wanted and time is precious.

The third piece of research evidence is a chapter on the Google generation – the digital information behaviour of young people. This concludes that it is a myth that young people are information literate. The authors concede a role for librarians in teaching information literacy at school, since university is too late.

The book is very strong in analysing the current situation, but is weak in proposing remedies. The chapter on “The library in the digital age” argues that libraries should become digital archives, conserving the products of the digital society. However this ignores the educational and research support role that libraries play now with digital scholars and people from the Google generation. Indeed despite the title, there is little discussion of the role of the librarian in today’s world. The message seems to be:
provide the stuff and let users get on with it. But I think we can do better than that. As
information professionals, we are experts on the information world. Our expertise can
save people time (one of Ranganathan’s Laws of Library Science), and in healthcare
maybe even save people’s lives. In this context the recommendations in the final
“Where do we go from here?” chapter seem very defeatist, assuming a profession in
decline. I would argue that the current situation, especially in the health sector, offers
tremendous new opportunities for librarians to make a difference – witness the recent
rise of the clinical librarian for example.

However although I disagree with the thesis of the book, it is definitely essential
reading. It presents a vast amount of information on how people today behave online
and when searching for information

Stephen Ayre, George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust

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Introduction to health sciences librarianship/ M. Sandra Wood, editor.
(pbk) [£60.00]

Perhaps a better title for this book would be: A comprehensive manual of health
sciences librarianship in the USA. The editor and authors are well-known North
American health librarians or information specialists, with expertise in many aspects
of health librarianship. The book is thorough – nearly 500 large pages and 18
chapters. The intention is to provide a text which will “provide all of the information
necessary to introduce a new librarian to the state of the art of the profession” (p.
xxiv). Every chapter begins with a summary, and ends with lengthy lists of scholarly
references attached to each chapter. (More short lists of recommended reading might
have been helpful and less intimidating for the novice). Chapters cover such diverse
topics as the profession of health librarianship and the health care environment,
selecting and purchasing books and journals, information retrieval, marketing and
PR, health informatics, management and planning, and rare books and special
collections. Several chapters include reflections on ethical issues alongside practical
advice. The book is well-illustrated, with lots of tables and screen-shots. One
fascinating feature are the regular “A day in the life...” pages, which give the reader
an insight into the working lives of librarians in different sorts of jobs in US health
libraries. There is a very full glossary – it is unsettling to see “incunabula” so close to
“Jiffy bag”!

How relevant is it for librarians in the UK and other countries? Some chapters have,
inevitably, a strong US focus and will be of very limited value to those based in
NHS or UK university and college libraries. This obviously applies to the section on
the organisation of health libraries and the library profession and to the overview of
the healthcare environment. Copyright regulation is clearly very different to that in
the UK or Europe. However, the section on technical services is also less relevant
than might be expected, for instance the chapter on “Organizing resources” assumes
use of the NLM classification and there is no mention of other systems; that on book
selection recommends US core title guides but does not mention the UK equivalent.
Whereas many US libraries in all sectors use approval plans, they are not common in the UK. The US interlending and document supply system is very different too. And of course the information on electronic resources makes no mention of the National Library for Health. The chapter on Consumer Health Information draws heavily on Canadian as well as US experience; there's a lot about MedlinePlus but nothing on NHS Direct. Budgeting, personnel management and IT provision are all very different. However, many sections of the book could be read profitably by people outside the US. The chapters on information retrieval and evidence-based practice are excellent and universally relevant. The discussion of library space planning is thorough and practical, and draws on experience from the UK and elsewhere. The chapter on Information Literacy gives a theoretical background but is also full of practical ideas which are applicable anywhere. Any health librarian looking for new roles and responsibilities might be inspired by the chapter on special services, describing activities such as managing the local VLE, providing manikins and simulators, and running video conferencing facilities.

The book aims to cover all sorts of health library, but in practice its focus is on libraries in hospitals and teaching institutions. The “one-person library” is mentioned; however much of the advice is aimed at large organisations with a lot of staff. There seems to be little on outreach work or library and information services for family physicians and professionals working outside hospitals and educational establishments. It would have been interesting to read more about the libraries in pharmaceutical companies and other commercial concerns.

To conclude: this book will be an essential purchase for health librarians in the USA; colleagues in Europe, the UK and other English-speaking countries will need to look elsewhere for an introduction to health librarianship.

*Dr Jenny Brine, Lancaster University Library*

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This is a very thorough and practical guide that is expertly cross-referenced. Written for library community, it has an obvious relevance for the public library sector and includes several references that are specific to Higher Education. But, I think that it also has elements that will be useful to all those working in the health library sector - whether they are developing proposals for internally or externally funded projects.

By asking questions throughout the book, the author certainly made me reflect. Her checklists provide are excellent summaries. Her text is clearly structured. It begins with an overview of the underpinning concepts. The key is preparation:

“The actual writing of the successful proposal, a useful skill in itself – is, however, the final stage of what should be a detailed project planning process.”
Each stage of the process from project definition to the final proposal preparation is discussed in turn. The reader can choose to hone in on specific sections. This makes it a useful tool for those new to making bids and the less experienced. Usefully, examples from real proposals are included.

I found the emphasis on planning and testing particularly useful. The author offers some good advice about consultation and asks the reader some very searching questions.

The chapter on matching project ideas to funding opportunities made me think more broadly about what might be available. There are clearly opportunities outside our sectors. But, we are cautioned to think about eligibility criteria. Many externally funded projects have to be collaborations between a range of partner organisations.

The excellent chapter on building partnerships goes beyond the scope of project funding. Again, the author asks questions and reinforces her points with meaningful headings including:

“…What does ‘partnership’ mean? What will be the ‘added value’ in partnership? … Be clear about what you want, Speak to the right people, Try to understand what they want…”

For this chapter, she draws heavily on the sourcebook produced by SQW Ltd. For the new Opportunities Fund, which is available only on the web. It has moved since the book was published but is relatively to easy to find:


The chapters covering project aims, objectives and outcomes, and project planning describe some tested techniques that can be applied to any project. There is also an overview chapter on monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment which defines the differences between them. The final chapter is about how to write effective proposals. I think there are components of it that are applicable to any proposal.

This is a very readable book about planning and writing proposals. It gives some very useful examples of, and tips on effective project planning and partnership working. It also provides some very useful notes and references. It is a book that I can recommend to colleagues particularly those involved in planning projects.

Anne Weist, National Library for Health

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Current literature

Customer service


The Wellcome Library has investigated a different way of evaluating customer satisfaction using the Profile Accumulation Technique (PAT) - with interesting results.

Knowledge management


This is the first part of a study on the information needs and information seeking behaviour of Healthcare Services Managers at the point of decision making.

Open access


Godlee looks at different publishing models and the issues facing clinicians and academics in the future.


Peter Morgan explains in this article the difference between ‘open access’ and ‘open data’, between ‘big science’ and ‘little science’ (or the ‘long tail of science’) and how new career opportunities could be emerging for librarians.

EBM


Harrison reports on a series of pilot workshops at the Royal Melbourne Hospital to make patients more aware of EBM resources online.

Zena Woodley gives us some background on the history of EBM in the UK, real life examples of EBM searches that changed practice as well as some information on the EBM provision for patients.

Mental health


Tang and Anderson take us on a tour of the new Mental Health in Higher Education (MHHE) website which aims to connect those working, studying, researching and teaching in HE with an interest for mental health.

MHHE http://www.mhhe.heacademy.ac.uk

Careers


This article offers some insight and recommendations on the fairly new information role of Knowledge Broker.

Databases


This article compares two databases, Embase and Medline, using three different platforms: OVID, Embase.com and PubMed. It specifically looks at searches performed to find information on a given subject and on contact details of research institutions and authors. It also evaluates the speed of indexing in each resource.


This article was written by doctors for doctors – a fascinating read for librarians.

The authors have interviewed 32 health professionals in Norway and the UK to find out how they used and what they thought of Cochrane. They have interpreted the results using Morville’s ‘honeycomb’ model.


*Fabienne Michaud, The Royal Society of Medicine*

*Contributions should be sent to Fabienne.Michaud@rsm.ac.uk or Library Services, The Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1G 0AE.*

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Diary of events

14 – 17 January 2009
Healthinf 2009: International Conference on Health Informatics
Portugal
http://www.healthinf.org/
Range of package options

20 January 2009
Finding & Understanding (free) Health Resources in Public Libraries
Cilip, London
http://www.cilip.org.uk/training/training/2009/research/findingandunderstandingfreecorehealthresourcеспор lowersinpubliclibraries.htm
Cilip Members £305+VAT (personal); £370+VAT (institution); Non-members £430+VAT

23 January 2009 (& 27 March 2009)
Online Searching Course (Basic)
BMA House, London
http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/HubLibraryCourses
BMA Members £160+VAT; Non-members £320+VAT

3 February 2009
Critical Appraisal Skills for Healthcare Librarians: the Basics
Cilip, London
http://www.cilip.org.uk/training/training/2009/libinfo/criticalappraisalskillsforhealthcarerelibrariansethebasics.htm
Cilip Members £200+VAT (personal); £235+VAT (institution); Non-members £275+VAT

30 March – 1 April 2009
Librarians’ Information Literacy Annual Conference - LILAC 2009 (CSG Information Literacy Group)
Julian Hodge Building, Cardiff University
http://www.lilacconference.com/dw/index.html
CSG Members £350 before 24/12/08, £375 thereafter; Single day prices £80 - £150

30 March – 1 April 2009
How to Practice Evidence-based Healthcare (CEBM)
St. Hugh’s College, Oxford University
http://www.cebm.net/?o=1011
£850

23 April 2009
Managing Outreach in Health Service Libraries
Cilip, London
http://www.cilip.org.uk/training/training/2009/mp/managingoutreachinhealthser vicelibraries.htm
Cilip Members £240+VAT (personal); £290+VAT (institution); Non-members £340+VAT

15 – 20 May 2009
iFusions (Medical Library Association Annual Meeting 2009 & Exhibition)
Honolulu, Hawaii
http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2009/index.html
Early-bird rates pre-April 2009: Super Inclusive ($430); Inclusive ($405); Conference ($295)

18 May 2009
Basic Critical Appraisal Skills Workshop (BMA/ScHARR & Trent RDSU)
BMA House, London
http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/HubLibraryCourses
£140+VAT

29 May 2009
Online Searching Course (Advanced)
BMA House, London
http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/HubLibraryCourses
BMA Members £160+VAT; Non-members £320+VAT

30 May – 3 June 2009
The Sky’s the Limit (Canadian Health Libraries Association Conference 2009)
The Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, Manitoba
http://ltc.umanitoba.ca/chla2009/index.php/Main_Page
Prices & details to be confirmed in February 2009

2 – 5 June 2009
Working with Others: Explore, Engage, Extend (EAHIL Workshop 2009)
Dublin Castle, Ireland
http://www.eahil2009.ie/
Prices & details to be confirmed in February 2009

21 – 24 June 2009
Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) 2009, 6th Annual Meeting
Suntec Singapore International Convention Centre, Singapore
http://www.htai2009.org/
Prices & details to be confirmed

23 – 24 June 2009
2nd International M-Libraries Conference
Vancouver, Canada
http://library.open.ac.uk/mLibraries/
Prices & details to be confirmed

29 June – 3 July 2009
5th International Evidence Based Library and Information Practice (EBLIP5)
Stockholm, Sweden
http://blogs.kib.ki.se/eblip5/
Prices & details to be confirmed in March 2009

10 July 2009 (& 4 September 2009)
Online Searching Course (Basic)
BMA House, London
http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/HubLibraryCourses
BMA Members £160+VAT; Non-members £320+VAT

14 – 15 July 2009
Umbrella 2009. Making Connections: the power of people, partnerships and services
University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield
http://www.umbrella2009.org.uk/
Prices & details to be confirmed

23 – 27 August 2009
Libraries create futures: building on cultural heritage (IFLA 75th General Conference & Council)
Milan, Italy
http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/index.htm
Prices & details to be confirmed

31 August – 4 September 2009
Positioning the Profession (10th International Congress on Medical Librarianship (ICML) 2009)
Including the 4th International Clinical Librarian Conference
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Australia
Range of package options

7 September 2009
Basic Critical Appraisal Skills Workshop (BMA/ScHARR & Trent RDSU)
BMA House, London
http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/HubLibraryCourses
£140+VAT

7 – 11 September 2009
5 Day Workshop on Teaching Evidence-based Practice
St. Hugh’s College, Oxford University
http://www.cebm.net/?o=1011
£1100

21 October 2009
Critical Appraisal Skills for Healthcare Librarians: Building on the Basics
Cilip, London
http://www.cilip.org.uk/training/training/2009/libinfo/criticalappraisalskillsforhealthcarelibrariansbuildingonthelas.htm
Cilip Members £200+VAT (personal); £235+VAT (institution); Non-members £275+VAT

26 October 2009
Extended Critical Appraisal Skills Workshop (BMA/ScHARR)
BMA House, London
http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/HubLibraryCourses
£140+VAT

6 November 2009
Online Searching Course (Advanced)
BMA House, London
http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/HubLibraryCourses
BMA Members £160+VAT; Non-members £320+VAT

Elise Collins, Information Specialist, National Collaborating Centre for Cancer
Contributions should be sent to elise.collins@nccc.wales.nhs.uk

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Newsletter editorial notes

CILIP Health Libraries Group Newsletter is a supplement to Health Information and Libraries Journal which is the official journal of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals Health Libraries Group (HLG). Published quarterly by Blackwell Publishing, reduced rates are available to students, members of HLG, the European Association for Health and Information Libraries (EAHIL), the Medical Library Association (MLA) and the Australian Library Association (ALIA). Members requiring the journal should order direct from Blackwell Publishing Ltd., 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2DQ, quoting their CILIP membership number.

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HLG Members email discussion list

Sign up today by going to http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/hlg-members and following the onscreen instructions.

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