Guest Editorial

Health Information and Libraries Journal and the HLG Newsletter: Past, Present and Future

CILIP, the Chartered Institute for Library and Information Professionals, is the UK’s professional body for library and information professionals and includes the Health Libraries Group (HLG) as one of its sub groups. HLG has two regular publications, the Health Information and Libraries Journal (HILJ) and the HLG Newsletter. In a collaborative approach, they provide their joint readership with a comprehensive coverage of the health and social care information sectors.

HILJ and the HLG Newsletter have very different roles for the health library and information sector. Rather than replicate content, the Editors and teams that help to produce both publications maintain a regular dialog, both face-to-face and electronically. We seek not only to regularly review activities, but also to ensure complimentary content that keeps a pace with the fast changing health and social care information sectors.

For a number of years the HLG Newsletter was included as an insert within HILJ. This worked well initially though synchronising their joint publication was not always straightforward; delays in publication in one would lead to delays for the other. After careful consideration, it was jointly decided to no longer publish as a single entity, but rather to celebrate the differences of the newsletter and journal as separate publications. So, what are the remits of these two publications? And which publication should you target your reading and possibly writing towards?

With an impact factor of 0.939 and rising, HILJ might be considered the academic arm of the HLG library of publications, positioned as 30 of 61 journals in the ISI Journals Reports ‘Information Science and Library Science’ category. Co-owned by the HLG and Wiley-Blackwell, HILJ is based on the subscription model of publishing and seeks to publish original articles on current practice, projects or research, reviews or state-of-the-art papers, studies under way and the development of new resources or services. It is peer reviewed, meaning that all papers submitted are sent to at least two referees who undertake to provide an impartial review of the structure, content and originality of the manuscript. Once accepted for publication in the print edition of HILJ, all manuscripts are assigned a DOI, or Digital Object Identifier. The DOI provides an unequivocal and permanent means of identifying the manuscript, whilst
the Wiley-Blackwell’s Early View service means that the manuscript becomes available to all HILJ online subscribers without delay.

The HLG Newsletter is a non-peer reviewed publication aiming to keep sector professionals up-to-date on current issues and events. Items submitted to its Editor tend to be more informal and newsy in content and have a valuable role to play in the daily lives of library and information science workers employed in the health and social care sector. Regular features include meeting reports, a diary of up and coming events, book reviews, annotated bibliographies of current literature, a selective list of Internet sites on a chosen theme, and news of the HLG groups: HLG Wales, Information for the Management of Healthcare and Libraries for Nursing. The HLG Newsletter also publishes short items on health projects making the HLG Newsletter the ideal first place to submit articles before stepping into the world of peer-reviewed journals. The Newsletter is freely available to all across the globe and is posted quarterly on the HLG web site. The HLG web site, part of the CILIP web site, also houses features from the HLG Newsletter as a way to extend the usefulness of the content and make it available to an audience beyond the typical readership, e.g. Internet Sites of Interest and the Diary of Events.

The Editorial Teams of both publications regularly review their remits to ensure that they remain relevant to their current and future readerships. For HILJ this primarily takes place at the annual board meetings whilst reader input from user surveys and feedback inform the HLG Newsletter. Key to both publications are the contributions of you, our readers, whether in the form of news items, manuscripts or constructive feedback on how we’re doing. As Editors of HILJ and the HLG Newsletter, both past and present, we urge you to get involved.

For further details of both publications, visit the HLG web page at: http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/health

And if you would like to get involved or have ideas for columns/developments or if you would like to write a short piece (1000-1500 words) for the newsletter then do please get in touch with the current editor, Elise Collins. We hope you find this issue of the newsletter useful, informative and enjoyable. See you next issue.

Maria J Grant, Editor, Health Information and Libraries Journal
Emily Harker, Past Editor, HLG Newsletter
Elise Collins, Editor, HLG Newsletter
Graham Walton, Past Editor, Health Information and Libraries Journal

Please make sure you have registered your email address with Cilip via the website otherwise you could be missing out on important HLG announcements.

It is not enough to have given your email address when renewing your Cilip subscription. You need to register via the Cilip website: http://www.cilip.org.uk/aboutcilip/welcome
Group news

Health Information and Libraries Journal

The contents of the September issue may be subject to slight change at proof stage but at the time of writing are as follows:

Editorial
Health Information and Libraries Journal and the HLG Newsletter: past, present and future.

Review article
Learning from research on the information behaviour of healthcare professionals: a review of the literature 2004-2008 with focus on emotion. I. Fourie

Original articles
Retrieving randomised controlled trials from MEDLINE: a comparison of 38 published search filters. A. McKibbon, N.L.Wilczynski & R.B.Haynes

Consistency and accuracy of indexing systematic review articles and meta-analyses in Medline. N.L. Wilczynski & R.B. Haynes

A pragmatic critical appraisal instrument for search filters. G. Bak, M. Mierzewinski-Urban, H. Fitzsimmons, A. Morrison & M. Maden-Jenkins

Beyond relevance and recall: testing new user-centred measures of database performance. P. Stokes, A. Foster & C. Urquhart

An online nursing leadership literature centre at the University of Manitoba Health Sciences Libraries. P. Barrett

A negative trend of biomedical research in Libya: a bibliometric study. H. Benamer, A. Bredan & O. Bakoush

Regular Features
International perspectives and initiatives

Learning and teaching in action
Evaluation of teaching and training sessions for maximum impact. E. Harker

Using evidence in practice
Research or evaluation? Does it matter? A. Booth

Penny Bonnett, Assistant Editor, Health Information and Libraries Journal

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Sub-Group News

IFM Healthcare

For information on current subscription rates, please see:
http://www.ifmh.org.uk/membership.html

INFORM 19(3) – Spring 2009

Featured articles in the latest edition of IFMH INFORM include:

- **Changing Librarians.** Will Williams gives an overview of the management of change. It draws upon established management tools and frameworks to highlight key issues in bringing about organisational transformations.

- **A Strategic Management and Planning Toolkit.** David Peacock introduces a number of “tools” and techniques that have been used to develop, plan and manage strategies in a wide variety of environments and organisations.

- **Planning in Practice: Developing Library Strategy to Support Service Improvement.** Tricia Ellis discusses the importance of developing a library strategy to ensure changes made to the service make a useful contribution to its improvement that are consistent with long term plans and looks at how such a strategy may be developed.

Plus your usual regulars: IFMH News and Committee Meeting Digest; Surf’s Up; Sidelines; NLH Update; NLH Health Management Specialist Library News and Hot Topic; e-Library Scotland Update.

Why not write for INFORM?

You can contribute to INFORM in one of two ways. You could either write a one-off article for the journal, or if you see yourself as a budding thought-leader and commentator, you could write a short regular column/opinion piece for us.

Publishing articles is good evidence of CPD and shows a willingness to engage with the profession. While we cannot promise you a pay-rise as a result of an article in INFORM, a list of publications always look good at the end of a CV!

Email Alan Lovell alan lovell@bazian.com or Kathleen Irvine k.y.irvine@stir.ac.uk if you’re interested in contributing a one-off or regular article for INFORM.

Study Days

IFMH is planning a study day on commissioning in early 2010. If you have any thoughts about the topics you’d like us to cover, or a desire to present on a particular aspect of this fascinating and increasingly important subject, please email Paul Howley, Joint Study Day Co-ordinator at PHowley@joseph-priestley.ac.uk

Elisabeth Barry, Publicity Co-ordinator, IFM Healthcare

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Libraries for Nursing (LfN)

Bulletin
We are just about to publish the second issue of the bulletin for 2009. The final issue of the year will be due out in December 2009. Articles, current awareness and reviews are welcomed. Please do contact us if you would like to contribute.

Committee
Phillip Barlow from Imperial has recently joined the committee.

Study day
LfN is organising a study day to be held on Friday 27th November 2009 at the Royal College of Nursing in London. This will be on the broad theme of Web 2.0. Details of the final programme still to be finalised.

Core Collection for Nursing
Work is progressing on the core collections with the Mental Health Core Collection to be completed first. Work on the Nursing and Midwifery Core Collection will begin in autumn 2009.

Mailing list
There is a JISC mailing list ‘lis-nursing’ ([lis-nursing@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:lis-nursing@jiscmail.ac.uk)) which is useful for everyone working in nursing, midwifery and health library and information services.

Membership
If you wish to subscribe or renew your subscription to the LfN bulletin for 2009 (you receive copies of our bulletin and get reduced rates at study days) please contact our membership secretary Lori Havard
Email: l.d.harvard@swansea.ac.uk

Jane Shelley, Chair, Libraries for Nursing

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HLG Wales

No news this session.

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Spotlight

We have the great pleasure in announcing that the 2010 CILIP Health Libraries Group Conference “Keeping information centre stage amongst changing scenery” will take place on the 19th & 20th July at The Lowry, Salford Quays in the great city of Manchester.

We are now issuing a call for abstracts and are asking for interested parties to submit ideas for papers by Monday 30th November 2009.

Venue - Manchester

Manchester is one of the best conference cities in the UK and we have selected The Lowry at Salford Quays to host the conference because it boasts fantastic facilities in a lovely location. It is a short tram journey from the city centre, meaning that shopping, dining, accommodation, sight seeing and leisure activities are in plentiful supply.

Manchester is also very well connected and is easily accessible from anywhere in the UK. It is also home to the UK’s 4th busiest airport meaning that travel from abroad is straightforward.

More details on the conference and booking will be available nearer the time.

Theme - Keeping information centre stage amongst changing scenery.

2010 will be a very important year for health librarians of all sectors. The recession may tighten budgets yet further, there will probably be a general election shortly before the conference and that may result in a change in government.

The conference will seek to understand how, amidst all these factors, we can keep libraries, librarians and most importantly of all, quality information at the centre of what we do and at the centre of our organisations.

We would encourage you to consider whether you could give a presentation, however long or short, that would be of interest to delegates and/or of help to the profession.

Suggestions for topics include:
- Gaining and keeping a higher profile
- Collaboration
- Use of Information Technology
- Evidence-based librarianship

However we will be delighted to receive abstracts on topics other than these suggestions or feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss your proposal.

Presentation formats:
Presentations could be from anything from 10 to 30 minutes, including questions, so if you’ve never presented at a conference before or if you are an expert, there is an opportunity for you here.
Applications:

The closing date for abstract submissions is Monday 30th November 2009. We hope to let you know the outcome of your applications by the 31st December 2009.

Please send your abstract submissions via email to either Pip Divall, Conference Director, or Stuart Glover, Programme Lead, at pip.divall@uhl-tr.nhs.uk and stuart.glover@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Submissions should include the following:

- Names of author(s)
- Name of presenter(s) at the conference (if known)
- Contact details of author(s) and presenter(s) including email addresses, postal addresses and direct telephone number
- Length of presentation
- Audio-visual requirements (e.g. PowerPoint, Internet access, overheads)
- Abstract (500 word maximum)

Conference news

We have set up a conference blog for the very latest information. Please visit: http://hlg2010.blogspot.com

Latest news can also be found on 2 popular social networking sites as detailed on the blog.

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Limited Access to Foreign Literature in Russia and its consequences for research and practice

Previously we have reported about limited availability of medical literature in Russia [1,2]. This is a summary on this topic with additional details. Access to foreign (including medical) literature has always been limited in the Soviet Union. In recent times, due to an improvement in the economy, some hospitals started purchasing foreign handbooks, but their quantity remains insufficient. Some medical specialists purchase modern manuals for their own means and use them privately at home, which is not optimal for medical practice. On the other hand, acquisition of foreign literature by libraries has decreased since the 1980s [1].

No surprise that foreign literature is on average scarcely quoted in Russian scientific publications today: well-known phenomena, disease entities, morphological changes etc. are described without referring to foreign literature, which can be misunderstood as global newness [e.g. 3,4]. There follow several verbatim quotations of the English summaries from *Arkhiv Patologii*, the main journal for pathologists in Russia, with our comments. The summaries are available also in the PubMed: "The structure, clinical manifestations, behavior of cavernous hemangiomas of the skin of the face and neck, and the oral soft tissues were studied, by using biopsy specimens from 229 patients. Three types of cavernous hemangiomas of these areas were identified. Their preferred treatments were defined and pathogenetically warranted." [5] Describing such a well-known lesion as cutaneous hemangioma, the authors did not quote a single foreign source. A three-volume *Textbook of Pathological Anatomy* by Paltsev MA, Anichkov NM [6], containing extensive borrowings without references given to the sources [7], is cited instead.

Another quotation from an English summary [8]: "The authors present the incidence and specific features of specific bone marrow lesion and the state of normal hemopoiesis and stroma. The criteria for the differential diagnosis of reactive polyclonal lymphoid proliferation in the bone marrow that may accompany many haematological and non-haematological diseases with specific bone marrow lesion in lymphoproliferative diseases are outlined." Furthermore, it is written in the article (verbatim translation): "According to our results, several histological types of bone marrow involvement in lymphoproliferative diseases can be distinguished: diffuse, interstitial and focal". Then follows a usual histological description of bone marrow involvement patterns by lymphoma that can be found in many foreign manuals, which are not referred to. The text can be misunderstood as an original description of bone marrow involvement patterns by lymphoproliferative disorders.

Another quotation [9]: "The experience by pathologists and clinical physicians in using the classification of tubulointerstitial lesions of the kidney, which was developed in the 1980s, has shown that it adequately reflects the structure of this important section of renal pathology. At the same time the classification is proposed to be modified on the basis of the actual current spectrum of renal pathology." This is a critical review with only one foreign source (from the year 1982) cited, apart from two books translated into Russian and the *Robbins & Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease*. The source is presented in the reference list without authors’ or editors’ names.
The last example [10]: "Negative consequences of treatment are observed at least in 16% patients at multidisciplinary hospitals and may result from the causes that are independent of medical staff, but more frequently from errors and inadequate treatment standards due to human factors. Systematic improvement of professionalism, which should be started from some educational reforms at medical institutes, is needed." It is a review of foreign literature with criticism of negative consequences of treatment and professional misconduct in medicine in the USA and other foreign countries. Materials of Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, National Patient Safety Agency, American Iatrogenic Association and other sources are used. Analogous phenomena in Russia are not mentioned at all.

After the Central Scientific Medical Library, which was discussed in the previous newsletter [1], the second largest collection of medical literature is in the Russian State Library in Moscow, which 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. The number of foreign journals has also decreased during the last years. Admittedly, full-text articles from some journals are available in electronic form through JSTOR (Trusted Archives for Scholarship) or other foreign resources for a fee. It is the case, for example, for The Lancet, which the Russian State Library has not received on paper since the year 2002.

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 an absurdly long time - up to a year. After that, if a reader takes a bunch of journals bound together, they become unavailable to others. Some recent journal issues are lacking, even of broadly used domestic editions.

Since the mid 1990s, large-scale repairs have been performed in the Library, while great part of literature was not given out. During these repairs, most of the foreign medical (and not only medical) journals issued before 1985 have been transferred to the Library’s division in the suburb town of Khimki. Among them are journals that are much in demand, e.g., Surgery, Cancer, Radiation Research, Health Physics, American Journals of Medicine, Pathology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Medical Technology, Physics and many others. It should be noted that articles and reviews from older editions, which can be of great value and urgently needed by a practitioner or researcher, are usually not available via the Internet. Besides, all domestic newspapers (except for those from the last year) and many foreign books are in Khimki as well. Fortunately, the Science and Nature are transferred to the suburb only if issued before 1950. Transportation is accompanied by damage and possibly also by destruction and loss of some pieces of literature. Motives of such measures were discussed in our previous publication [1]. It can be heard as justification that Russian State Library, one of the largest libraries in the world, is unfavorably located: in the crowded city center, near the entrance to the Kremlin; and the readers should be possibly redirected elsewhere.

Limited availability of foreign professional literature hinders advancement of research and practice in our country as well as integration with international scientific community. What solution can be proposed? 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 most convenient, but
plagiarism of professional literature, which is not uncommon until today [7], can be an obstacle.

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Bibliography


Captions for illustrations

Fig. 1 a-d. Central Scientific Medical Library in Moscow. Foreign medical journals from the two last decades are stored in the cellar in disarray, covered by dust and partly damaged by water.
The Virtual Training Suite from Intute updated in the light of user feedback

The Intute Virtual Training Suite www.vts.intute.ac.uk offers free tutorials on using the Web for education and research, written and reviewed by a national team of lecturers and subject specialists from universities across the UK.

Aimed at students, there are 62 tutorials, covering most degree subjects, and this year the content and design of about half of them have been completely overhauled. Besides a tutorial on Internet for Medicine, other tutorials launched in July 2009 of relevance to medicine include:

- Internet for Nursing
- Internet for Midwifery
- Internet for Health and Social Care
- Internet for Microbiology

Intute is a national Internet service from JISC that aims to help students to make more discerning use of the Internet for their university coursework. The Virtual Training Suite Internet tutorials focus on academic Web resources online, and stress the importance of critically evaluating material found on the Web. They were launched as part of a wider programme of improvements to the Intute website.

User feedback

Internet tutorials have been produced and updated regularly since 2000, but last year it was decided that it was time to take stock and review the direction of the service. The tutorial content and design have now been completely overhauled in the light of Internet developments, in particular the impact of Web 2.0 technologies in higher education (HE); academic Web trends (changes in online academic publishing); and extensive user feedback (via market research, and analysis of over 5,000 online-feedback forms and an online survey).

The Virtual Training Suite is continually updated, but these changes reflect a major overhaul, and the remainder of the tutorials will benefit similarly in the coming year. Feedback from university staff suggests that they find it useful to point students to the tutorials from course handbooks, VLEs and library web pages. There is also evidence that they are being used to support courses in research methods, study skills and information literacy.

Tutorial design and interactive features

While the format of the online tutorials has continued to be popular, with high levels of uptake and use in university courses, the new design makes tutorials shorter, easier to read online, and with more graphics and exercises. Interactive features of each tutorial include quizzes, practical exercises, and a ‘links basket’ functionality which allows the user to keep a record of all website URLs mentioned in the tutorial. These features have proven popular with students. Each tutorial takes around one hour to complete, allowing the user to work through the material in their own time and at their own pace.

The four main sections of each tutorial are as follows:
1. TOUR – focusing on the academic information landscape
2. DISCOVER – focusing on how to find scholarly information online
3. JUDGE – focusing on the importance of critically evaluating resources found online
4. SUCCESS – providing practical examples of students using the Internet for research

All tutorials have an online feedback form. Market research has revealed that the Virtual Training Suite is one of the most highly used parts of the JISC funded Intute service as a whole.

Intute website
The updated Virtual Training Suite is part of a wider programme of improvements to the Intute website. During 2008, Intute commissioned market research followed by usability testing. In both these projects, the quality of the resources contained within the Intute site was perceived as first rate. However, people also said that they needed a clearer understanding of what the service offers and who it is for. As a result, the website has been redesigned, with the design, tone and structure focused so as to appeal to the target audience of students in higher education. Instead of the four subject groups, the home page now lists 19 top level subjects which are more closely aligned to university courses. The search box is still central but increased prominence is given to the Virtual Training Suite, the MyIntute personalised workspace and more dynamic content such as the blog.

What's new?
- Clearer navigation to subject pages and throughout the site.
- Hot topics published regularly on all subjects.
- MyIntute simplified with all the functionality on one page. This personal space allows the easy setting up of subject-related alerts by e-mail or RSS and the export of bookmarks to social bookmarking sites.
- New look and feel, and rewriting of help text for improved readability.
- Clearer messages about the aim of the service, who it’s for and who creates the content.

Robert Abbott, Medicine Subject Specialist, Intute, University of Nottingham
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Internet sites of interest

Image websites, and a little bit about influenza

Here are some sites that provide medical or health related images. Always check the conditions of use of the site, of course, to see what you are allowed to do with the images.

Images

DOIA/PedOIA
Both accessible via the Dermatology Information Service at http://www.dermis.net/dermisroot/en/home/index.htm, these are image atlases covering dermatology and paediatric dermatology. The images can be browsed or searched.

Gray’s Anatomy
http://www.bartleby.com/107/
This is a digitised version of the 20th edition, 1918.

Hardin MD Medical Pictures/Disease Pictures
http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/md/pictures.html
Hardin MD is a web gateway maintained at the University of Iowa Library, and this page is a list of links to images, arranged by topic.

HEAL
http://www.healcentral.org/index.jsp
Digital materials for health sciences education, including audio and consumer health materials. Free registration required. Established by the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, the University of Utah Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library, and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

HON Medical Images and Video Repository
http://www.hon.ch/Media/media.html
Maintained by the Health on the Net Foundation, which runs the HONCode certification scheme for websites (sites possessing this certificate have to adhere to certain principles, and there are periodic checks that they are doing so).

Medical Images and Illustrations
http://www.mic.stacken.kth.se/MEDIMAGES.html
This is the link collection that used to be maintained by the Karolinska Institut Library in Stockholm, but which now resides on a site at the Kungliga Tekniska Hogskolan in Stockholm. The rest of the KI links pages seem to have migrated there too.

Public Health Image Library (PHIL)
http://phil.cdc.gov/phil/home.asp
Multimedia and images relating to public health, from the CDC. Includes infectious organisms, environmental health, natural disasters. Copyright and conditions of use clearly explained – I have used this site for images of microbes of one sort or another.
Wellcome Images
http://images.wellcome.ac.uk/indexplus/page/Home.html
Images from the collections of the Wellcome Library, made available for academic teaching under a Creative Commons licence.

Influenza

A shameless plug for our own influenza website, which has just been included in Intute (thank you!), and earlier versions of which have been archived by the UK Web Archiving Consortium.

This site is designed to bring together useful links, and we have recently added a page about H1N1 influenza (swine flu). The site starts at http://www.le.ac.uk/library/clinical/influenza/index.html

End of plug!

As always, suggestions for future columns welcome, and, indeed, columns themselves – if you are interested in contributing an actual list of resources for a future column, please contact me.

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Meeting reports

Working together: an international perspective

EAHIL 2009: Working with others: Explore, engage, extend!
2nd-5th June 2009, Dublin Castle, Ireland

In the unseasonal Dublin sunshine, the European Association of Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL) met for their annual conference and workshop. This year, the theme was partnership and collaborative working, taking an international perspective on the idea of sharing best practice. EAHIL predominantly consists of health science library workers based in hospitals, but also provides communities of practice for academic liaisons who work in medical and veterinary medicine, consumer health information and health research. There are over 1300 members in the organisation, which has an affiliation to the Medical Library Association (MLA) in America.

The key theme of working with others was split into two supporting ideas – using technology to work in partnership, and improving our own skills in order to work more cohesively with others. For this reason, a number of ‘empowerment workshops’ were run, encouraging librarians from all backgrounds to problem solve effectively, give better presentations, use reflective techniques in their work, and learn how to cope with change.

The necessity of consolidating interpersonal skills appears to be one of the key factors in successful partnership working, with workshop leader Elizabeth Lank pointing out that we need to think about effective ways to communicate. These ways might not always be traditional – many of us find ourselves at meetings which we think may not be useful – and so examining new ways to have a conversation – without an agenda and minutes might be the way forward.

There was a great deal of discussion about adapting our resources to the needs of our users. Dr. Conor Galvin talked about the changes in technology that have occurred over recent years, emphasising that new students in universities have grown up with the internet, and expect more from it. A recognition of the need to make resources accessible 24/7 is not new, but Dr. Galvin suggested that we also needed to personalise this access to resources and make them multipurpose. This linked into the work of Dr. Andrew Booth and Andy Tattersall, who demonstrated their work at the School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR) in Sheffield, creating portals of resources for health researchers.

Many health professionals presented their views on what was needed in terms of information and support, and it was interesting to hear an external perspective from outside the library sphere. This reminded me that we should always try and talk to people who use our services as much as we can, in order to find out what they actually want and need!

The highlight of the conference was the chance to liaise and share best practice with an international group of librarians. The international perspective is something that is sometimes missing from our work, and as health is a global issue, there is a lot to learn from each other. Finally, in the words of Tomas Allen, the World Health Organisation’s representative at the conference, we need to make sure that in this technological age, we appreciate librarians – the people behind the technology – and
do not focus too much on online resources to the detriment of ourselves. We are the most important resource in terms of partnership working!

- Abstracts from the parallel paper sessions and details of the conference are available from: [http://www.eahil2009.ie/](http://www.eahil2009.ie/) Full text of the papers will be online at a later date.
- Further information about EAHIL is available from: [http://www.eahil.net/](http://www.eahil.net/)
- To learn more about the work of The John Campbell Trust, visit: [http://www.cilip.org.uk/interests/jct/index.html](http://www.cilip.org.uk/interests/jct/index.html)

Liz Brewster, PhD student, Department of Information Studies, University of Sheffield (Liz was supported by the generosity of The John Campbell Trust, who enabled her to attend EAHIL 2009)

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**Medical Library Association Annual Meeting 2009: iFusions**

15th – 20th May 2009, Honolulu, Hawaii

Last year, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the Kenya Health Information Partnership, a consortium of libraries and librarians in the South West, on a project involving planning and co-presenting a workshop in Nairobi. I was so impressed with the way the members of the group worked together and how they carried out the planning process with Ken-AHILA, the Kenyan chapter of the Association for Health Information & Libraries in Africa, that I felt members of the US Medical Library Association (MLA) would benefit from hearing about it and the work of Phi (Partnerships in Health Information), who help to support the Kenya Health Information Partnership. I submitted a proposal to speak at MLA’s annual meeting, which was accepted.

As part of HLG’s manifesto is to support the improvement of access to health information in developing countries, I was granted a bursary towards my attendance at the 2009 MLA Annual Meeting. The conference took place at the Waikiki Convention Centre in Honolulu, Hawaii, 15-20 May 2009.

Mary Ryan, MLA’s president, opened the conference, followed by an intriguing talk by Adam Bosworth on health technology management. Bosworth is a former Google Vice President who was in charge of Google Health. He noted that electronic health records should be patient-based, rather than doctor-based, because patients move around. He believes that an electronic personal health action plan would do more to improve health than an electronic health record and that physician and patients should act as partners. Compliance measures should be integrated into this new system and patients who wilfully do not comply may have to pay more for their health care. He spoke of how public acceptance of new products/ideas progresses. If 46% of people want a product, everyone starts to want the product.

An update from the US National Library of Medicine (NLM) emphasised emergency preparedness and a new website: [http://nnlm.gov/epi/](http://nnlm.gov/epi/). NLM recommends downloading relevant web-based information to a PC in libraries and hospital emergency rooms, so appropriate information will be available if the Internet becomes unavailable in an emergency. Dr. Donald Lindberg, NLM Director, opened the update with a touching piece on Kalaupapa, a former leper colony on the island of Molokai.
NLM’s History of Medicine exhibition, Harry Potter’s World (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/harrypottersworld/exhibition.html) has been very popular and offers education resources for teachers. Against the Odds: Making a Difference in Global Health is a travelling exhibition about health-related collaborations around the world (http://apps.nlm.nih.gov/againsttheodds/index.cfm). Educational tools are available at the web site as well as stories of successful partnerships.

NLM’s exhibit booth offered short instructional sessions, including an update on LinkOut, which enables libraries and other information providers to submit holdings to PubMed and other NLM databases. EBSCO, TDNet, ProQuest, and Serials Solutions can act as an intermediary for libraries, saving staff the effort of submitting holdings. A LinkOut online tutorial will be made available sometime this summer.

Although the conference offered an excellent opportunity to learn about NLM activities and tools, there were plenty of other sessions on the programme. The poster sessions stood out as being particularly outstanding. Many of them were about how libraries are using Web 2.0 technology to reach out to users and collaborate with staff.

Blogging the Evidence was a poster submitted by Julia Esparza, Angela D. Ledger and Marianne Comegys. A blog was developed to provide easy access to major guidelines, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and major reviews. It is also available as RSS feed. The comments facility has been disabled for security reasons. The poster included content selection criteria and a pie chart with percentages of types of content.

What Is “Quality?”: A Systematic Review of Criteria from Existing Resource-evaluation Instruments was a poster submitted by John T. Oliver, Konstantina Matsoukas, Sookyung Hyun, Myra P. Joyce, Sapana R. Patel, Olivia Velez, Po-Yin Yen, and Leanne M. Currie. The poster had a table listing publications and evaluation instruments, comparing quality criteria used. Interestingly, it showed that some well-known instruments lack important criteria used in other instruments.

I signed up for three continuing education workshops: Knowledge Transfer: Moving from Best Evidence to Best Practice; Understanding Health Care Literature: Advanced Critical Appraisal Skills; and HINARI Access to Research Initiative: Internet Resources for Health Information Professionals: Training the Trainers. The first two workshops were taught by Ann McKibbon, Associate Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the Health Information Research Unit at McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada. Ann McKibbon is known for her work and authorship in evidence-based medicine. At this year’s MLA conference, she was honoured with the Lucretia W. McClure Excellence in Education Award. The second of her two workshops was based around three to five scenarios and rounds of using supplied articles to come to a clinical decision. Each round of critical appraisal was done using a different approach to the process. At the end of the class, attendees discussed the benefits and harms of each of the ways of presenting critical appraisal.

The HINARI workshop was taught by Lenny Rhine, FMLA, University of Florida-Gainesville, and Coordinator, Librarians without Borders®, E-Library Training Initiative, MLA. The workshop was designed to prepare librarians to provide training in HINARI-eligible countries. HINARI (Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative) was started by Barbara Aronson and is coordinated by the World Health Organisation (WHO). It is a collaboration between WHO, publishers, and other health
care content owners to provide information to non-profit institutions and government and policy-making bodies in low income countries.

Along with the knowledge I gained at the MLA conference, I enjoyed the opportunity to network with colleagues in such a beautiful place. I am grateful to HLG and Partnerships in Health Information (www.partnershipsinhealthinformation.org.uk/) for contributing towards my attendance at the conference.

_Pam White, MLS, PhD student, Centre for Health Informatics, City University London_

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_Aloha Hawaii! - A UK delegates' experience of 'iFusions'_

**Medical Library Association Annual Meeting 2009: iFusions**

15th – 20th May 2009, Honolulu, Hawaii

The first full day of the conference on Sunday 17th started at 6.30am with the first time attendee breakfast, good food and good company. I met librarians from across the USA, Japan and Tanzania, a truly international conference!

One of the first plenary sessions was delivered by Adam Bosworth of KEAS who argued how Electronic Health Records or Patient Health Records were not sufficient for current health care systems. He suggested that what is needed are dynamic adaptable Health Action Plans, tailored for individual patients, the content of which is relevant to the patients own lifestyle and circumstances and engages patients fully in their own healthcare. He envisaged a Health Action Plan which would provide;

- Patients with weekly advice, reminders that a Dr would otherwise provide
- Relevant context and specific nutrition and exercise advice
- Relevant lab results and personalised interpretation of these

Adam stated that we are currently practising 19th century medicine in the 21st century, we need smart automated tools which help to educate the patients in the context of their own individual health needs and the role of Librarians in these action plans is;

- Relevant content
- State of art health information
- Best protocols
- Help measure outcomes

This was a challenging presentation which made me as both a health information professional and health care consumer consider how we communicate the care and treatment of patients and how that area of information provision could be improved.

In the afternoon there was an interesting presentation on a qualification offered by the University of North Carolina and Duke University, a dual degree of MD and MSLS, more details can be found at: [http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/about/dualdegree/](http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/about/dualdegree/)

The first cohort of four medical students had completed the course successfully though some lessons had been learnt such as the need to strengthen the role of advisors and broaden physician role models. This resulted in a lively discussion
about the education of medical/health information and library professionals of the future.

A further presentation discussed ‘Fusing the informationist: incorporating innovative and expanded roles for the Informationist model in an academic medical center’ at Georgetown University Medical Center.

Informationists contribute to

- Curriculum
- Basic sciences
- Bioinformatics
- Informatics
- Clinical Groups

In translational medicine the role of basic science informationist includes

- Attending weekly meetings
- Conducting needs assessment
- Training tutorials
- Training for librarians for specializes databases and resources

This role again reinforced the need for librarians and information professionals to leave the library to foster and develop working relationships with our researchers. We need to assess their information needs rather than assume we know what support/advice/help that they want or require.

That afternoon I attended a session entitled 'The who, what, where, when and why of social and traditional media'. Social media is:

- Changing the way people discover, share and read information online
- An inexpensive way to share knowledge, experiences and thoughts with others.

People of all ages, economic status and education level are using social media. The 50+ population are the fastest growing user group!

Libraries can make use of social media to:

- Share or promote a special event
- Establish a brand
- Network with other libraries or other organisations
- Gather information from a diverse audience

The conclusion of the discussion was that as long as you have a definite message to get over you should get Facebooking; it was regarded as a social media that will ‘stick’!

On the Monday the session I enjoyed most was the Top Technical Trends panel discussion with five trend setters including Michelle Kraft who many of you will know from her 'Krafty Librarian' blog. This was a lively and fun discussion from all panel
participants. Trends they suggested we should be aware of and/or making use of include:

- Flip cameras to produce our own videos simply and cheaply, our Generation X and millennial users like visual info and are regular Youtube users. I was so impressed with the flip camera that I have now purchased one for personal and work use and am currently experimenting with filming in the library.

- iPhone and iPod touch. According to the panel these are now replacing PDA technology. Libraries can optimise webpage information for use on these small screen technologies. If creating 'apps' libraries should:
  
  - tailor the look of apps to be similar to those already available,
  - think about the info that students may want to access,
  - don't just throw everything from the website at your users in this form,
  - always let users access the full version webpage if they want to.

University of Virginia have produced apps for their Medical students, you can have a look at them on your own mobile device by going to [http://mobile.hsl.virginia.edu](http://mobile.hsl.virginia.edu).

- Twitter. The panel suggested that tweeting will replace texting? Tools such as Tweetdeck can help you manage your Twitter. “I tweet therefore I am”. I have to say that I am not currently a user of twitter but the technology was put to good use during this conference and kept you informed of pertinent information from sessions delegates were unable to attend.

At Swansea University the Subject Teams are keen to investigate the use of social networking and Web 2.0 technologies and to assess their usefulness with LIS users. As a Health/Medical Team we are currently looking at using delicious bookmarking and using new technology such as the flip camera to create sound and attractive online learning objects. The experiences of librarians and information professionals in this area that I heard at MLA '09 will help to inform our assessment of these tools.

While viewing the exhibition stands I called in at the NLM stand to hear about future updates to the PubMed database. At the end of summer 2009 there will be a redesign of the interface to simplify, refresh, better organize the information and promote scientific discovery. We saw a brief mock up of what the pages could look like with a warning that it will probably change but basically simplifies the arrangement of the results page with a more 'Google' layout. Coming soon for My NCBI are custom filters and sharing Collections, My Bibliography and Other Citations, rare disease terms will be added to MeSH in 09/10.

In the afternoon I went to a session discussing the role of the 'Librarian in Translational Science/Research', the joining together of research in basic science with health research for the benefit of patient care.

Kristi Holmes from Washington University, St Louis delivered a particularly interesting presentation. A Bioinformationist based in the library there she gave some good practical hints on raising the profile of the services you can offer to researchers. One tip was to organise webinars of resources useful to this user group and advertise them via the library, vendors seem happy to do this. Other suggestions were;

  - Leave the library, go TO the users - 'walk & talk'
• Try top tens of resources e.g. top ten medical blogs
• If you have space create a small area for researchers e.g. computer research pod, don't need a lot of resources but a designated area is appreciated
• Identify professionals in the research office and arrange to meet up individually
• Post materials around the building, distribute business cards and promote your brand

Becker Medical Library at Washington University have produced a Research Impact tool which I certainly hadn't come across before, you can see it at http://becker.wustl.edu/impact/assessment something again that may be useful for our users involved in research.

Tuesday evening was the MLA Luau. This was a lovely meal outdoors under starry skies with entertainment of the hula variety, a fun evening in the company of friendly librarians.

On the final day of the conference I attended a fascinating plenary session presented by Ben Young who spoke on "The impact of diseases on Hawaii's medical history". This was an interesting and emotive talk from a very entertaining speaker. The history of Hawaiian's health was of course shaped by the arrival of Western Europeans and their diseases such as smallpox and cholera. Because of this, within 30 years there was a 58% decline in population of the Hawaiian Islands. This speaker gave a detailed history of the establishment of the facilities established to take care of those who had become ill and also the physicians of note who were involved in their treatment, with details of the leprosy colony at of Kalaupapa and the work of Father Damien who cared for that community.

This conference was a wonderful experience both in terms of my continuing education as a health information professional and as an opportunity to network with librarians from all over the world. I feel very privileged to have had the chance to attend and would like to thank both the Health Libraries Group and EBSCO for making it possible for me to be a delegate at this event.

The conference programme and abstracts are available at http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2009/

Katrina Dalziel, Deputy Health Science & Medical School Librarian, Swansea University

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Book review


Searching 2.0 is aimed at librarians who want to learn more about Web 2.0, and in particular the new tools that the concept has generated, and how it can improve their internet searching skills. The title has a triple meaning: it is the author’s second publication on internet searching, it refers to the second generation of internet search strategies, and it cleverly links to the amount of talk within the information world about Web 2.0 and Library 2.0.

There are many published books focusing on the use of Web 2.0 within library and information work, whereas this book, arguably, challenges the very core of librarian work: how to search for and retrieve information for users.

The size and weight of the book can be off-putting at first, but the narrative style makes it very easy to get into. Drawing on the author’s own experience as a reference and enquiry librarian in the United States, Searching 2.0 has a distinctly American feel. It is mainly aimed at reference librarians or public librarians working on enquiry desks but the author sometimes applies the concepts to other roles within the library world.

The book is organised into eleven chapters and was written to be read in chapter order, but I would argue that once the first chapter has been read - introducing the reader to the concept of Web 2.0 - the others can be dipped in and out of according to the reader’s interests or preferences.

The author’s main premise is that Web 2.0 can inform and aid librarians in their role and he strives to present tools which may seem alien to some (Delicious, Flickr, Podscope, Kartoo) in an easy to understand and applicable context.

The author, Michael Sauers, examines and clarifies the concept of Web 2.0, before introducing the reader to the bookmarking software Delicious and how this can be used within libraries as a tool for sharing information and knowledge, as well as organising information. Sauers then describes the functions and features of three of the most popular search engines; Google, Microsoft’s Live Search and Yahoo! Search. He moves onto Wikipedia and then how to search for media such as images, audio and video. He then covers searching the archive pages of various websites; searching the text within resources such as books; and desktop searching. There is an interesting final chapter on data visualisation which challenges the ingrained assumption that search results should always be linear text-based; the tools Sauers introduces will add to the serendipity of Internet searching.

Personally, I found the chapter on searching for media such as images, audio and video the most useful as it introduced search tools and resources that I had not previously been aware of. As many libraries and resource services work towards incorporating more multimedia items into existing collections, books such as this will help make the most of the Web 2.0 environment.

Throughout the book, Sauers introduces new tools or software to the reader, leads them step-by-step through illustrative screenshots, and clearly applies how such
tools can be built into everyday library work. Many of the tools, once mastered, will prove very time-saving for librarians.

In conclusion, Searching 2.0 definitely gives the reader ideas on how to apply new concepts to your own work, and improve practices within your own workplace. As with all hard-copy books referring to the Internet the author admits that it could become out of date very quickly, but at the moment, the topics feel fresh and informative.

I would recommend this book to any information professional involved in searching, whether on behalf of users or for their own work, and who has an interest in the constantly evolving practices that Web 2.0 is forcing librarians to deal with. For a short period of time, you may even feel on top of all the new!

Tasha Cooper, Information Officer, MIDIRS (Midwives Information and Resource Service)

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"Making the Most of RFID in Libraries" is a useful book for anyone looking into adding RFID to their service, and is a useful general guide to the developing world of Radio Frequency Identification. It may not be an encyclopaedic A to Z of RFID technologies, but it is a nice guide for anyone looking at this technology. This text is clearly targeted at library professionals, looking at the potential of RFID and its utility into their library services, and the book works very well for this readership, including templates for business plans, a tool for evaluating bids and a case study. The book also works well for any library staff who would like to learn more about RFID, explaining what it is and how it works, and where it is used.

Martin Palmer, the author, is widely experienced with RFID in Libraries, working for the Essex County Council Libraries Service, where he headed up the implantation and purchasing of RFID for them. He is also Chair of the BIC/CILIP RFID in Libraries Group and BIC’s E4Libraries Steering Committee. The Author even uses his work at Essex Libraries as the case study in the book.

The book is nicely ordered, starting with giving a background to RFID in libraries, why it is becoming such an emerging technology in information provision, to technical information and issues, to developing business plans, case studies et al.

With the growth of RFID technology and its rapid adoption by numerous library services, this is a timely and useful book. The book fits well in the library literature on emerging and challenging technologies. The text itself is informative, covering the technology and the jargon, but in an easy to read and digestible manner. The section on the international standards and protocols is understandable and important to know about when dealing with competing RFID quotations from supplies. Being able to find if a supplier’s RFID is compatible with international standards is helpful in trying to avoid the pitfall of buying the “Betamax” option.

The book clearly is aimed at larger libraries; Public and Higher Education Libraries. That does not mean the book is not useful for other sectors and smaller libraries.
Though the templates and case study are clearly designed with large libraries in mind, the sections on the background, utility, security, privacy and technology are all very useful for all libraries looking at RFID for their services. The templates can always be adjusted for an individual service and remain a good starting point when thinking about bidding for finances or comparing quotations from suppliers. The other sections are an interesting read though, to anyone interested in emergent library technologies, or for staff who are worried about the implications and impact of RFID.

The information contained within the book is well referenced and the author clearly demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge of his subject. Some of the information provided I was unaware of and I have already undertaken and bought RFID in my own library service. I would question including the details of various RFID technology suppliers in the back of the book, purely as this information will noticeably date, but for someone new to RFID, inspired by the book, this section is useful in enabling contact with suppliers.

I would suggest anyone looking into RFID as a technology should read this book. It is a very timely text, with RFID seen by some as a panacea for all library problems, where as the situation, as usual, is more complex than that. For readers less interested in buying and implanting RFID, the book still has some useful sections, including some of the uses of RFID tags in the non-library world, from London Underground’s Oyster cards to keeping track of cows. In summary, this book is a must read for anyone looking at RFID and its uses and anyone who is keeping an eye on technological developments in the wider library world.

Richard Parker, Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust

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Current literature

New technologies


This is an exciting and innovative way to teach MeSH using web 2.0 technology. The pilot ran for 14 weeks at Boston University, Massachusetts and was delivered by 5 librarians to 186 graduate students as part of their graduate medical science programme.


http://www.sconul.ac.uk/publications/newsletter/45/32.pdf (OA)

The Sir Herbert Duthie Library which supports NHS staff at the University of Wales Hospital was one of the 3 libraries pioneering RFID (Radio frequency identification) in 2007 for Cardiff University. The aim of the project was to increase the amount of time spent on academic liaison work.

Academic Libraries


Nancy Graham is the Subject Advisor for medicine at the University of Birmingham. She describes here her subject support and academic liaison work over the past 3 years. This is a good read and a useful point of comparison for those working in this field already or for colleagues who would like to know more about this sector.

Medical history


http://www.mla-hhss.org (OA)

This article provides a fairly comprehensive list of ideas and initiatives to promote health sciences libraries and their historical collections.
Open access publishing


http://www.dlib.org/dlib/may09/marill/05marill.html (OA)

In order to manage the increasing and varied number of digital material deposited at the National Library of Medicine, 10 repository software packages were investigated and evaluated against a range of criteria such as functionality, system support & security and strength of technology road map for the future.

Databases

Klem et al. (2009) Building PROMIS item banks: librarians as co-investigators. *Quality of Life Research*. 23 June. [Internet]

http://www.springerlink.com/content/t34u914487532418 (Link to abstract)

Librarians are not just about books and here is another excellent example of how librarians can add value to a project and an organisation.

PROMIS (Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System) http://www.nihpromis.org

Patient information


http://www.jneb.org/article/S1499-4046(07)01094-9/abstract (Link to abstract)

This article assesses the impact on one hundred public librarians from Texas and Alabama of an online course which aimed to help them promote community health.

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

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
http://www.icml2009.com/
Range of package options

4 September 2009
Online Searching Course (Basic)
BMA House, London
http://www.bma.org.uk/whats_on/library_courses/index.jsp
BMA Members £160+VAT; Non-members £320+VAT

7 September 2009
Basic Critical Appraisal Skills Workshop (in association with ScHARR)
BMA House, London
http://www.bma.org.uk/whats_on/library_courses/index.jsp
£140

7 – 11 September 2009
15th Oxford Workshop in Teaching Evidence-based Practice
St. Hugh’s College, Oxford University
http://www.cebm.net/?o=1011
£1100

10 – 12 September 2009
Sixth International Congress on Peer Review and Biomedical Publication
Westin Bayshore Hotel, Vancouver, Canada
$595 full delegate; $250 day delegate

16 – 19 September 2009
Integrity in Science Communication (Tenth EASE (European Association of Science Editors) General Assembly and Conference)
Palazzo dei Congressi, Pisa, Italy
http://www.ease.org.uk/con/index.shtml
€440 EASE members; €540 non-members

27 September – 2 October 2009
13th European Conference on Digital Libraries (ECDL 2009)
Corfu Holiday Palace, Corfu, Greece
http://www.ecdl2009.eu/
Range of package options

15 - 16 October 2009
Internet Librarian International 2009
Novotel London West, London
http://www.internet-librarian.com
Early bird rates before 25th September, range of package options
21 October 2009
Critical Appraisal Skills for Healthcare Librarians: Building on the Basics
CILIP, London
http://www.cilip.org.uk/training/training/2009/libinfo/criticalappraisalskillsforhealthcarelibrariansbuildingonthebasics.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/whats_on/library_courses/index.jsp
£140+VAT

6 November 2009
Online Searching Course (Advanced)
BMA House, London
http://www.bma.org.uk/whats_on/library_courses/index.jsp
BMA Members £160+VAT; Non-members £320+VAT

24 November 2009
King’s Fund Annual Conference 2009
Royal College of Physicians, Regent’s Park, London
http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/learn/conferences_and_seminars/annual_conference_09.html
Commercial £268+VAT; Public sector £224+VAT; Voluntary sector £180+VAT

1-3 December 2009
Online Information 2009
Olympia Grand Hall, London
http://www.online-information.co.uk/index.html
Early bird registration for full delegate £714+VAT; range of package options

20 January 2010
Economic Evaluations and Economic Evidence in Healthcare: Finding Information to Inform Technology Assessments and Economic Models
University of York, York
http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/yhec/?q=content/finding-info
£195+VAT

Julia Garthwaite, Deputy Site Librarian, Cruciform Library, UCL
Contributions should be sent to j.garthwaite@ucl.ac.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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