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Editorial

Hello and a very warm welcome to the December issue of the Newsletter! These last few months have been a very exciting time for me – not only did I get married but I've also been really pleased to have been receiving some excellent original articles. The Newsletter thrives at times when readers are engaging with the publication and submitting pieces – whether book reviews, meeting reports or original articles. All are important but it is the original articles which I particularly value as there can be such a range in content.

I am particularly pleased to be able to include an article in this issue on analysing searching techniques and different interfaces – whilst it is an important element of health librarianship it is an area which is often relatively neglected in terms of research and publication. We also have an article on the Commissioning Handbook for Librarians – describing the context of the handbook and its future place within the ever-changing NHS structure.

Sometimes I receive articles which are not quite right for the Newsletter in terms of style or content, but they may be right for Health Information and Libraries Journal (HILJ). In recent weeks I have been able to provide feedback to authors from the HILJ Editorial Team as to how an article might be amended to be appropriate for HILJ. Whilst the Newsletter may have lost an article submission it feels exciting to have encouraged a Newsletter author to aim towards publication in HILJ.

Sometimes an author writes an informal perspective for the Newsletter with the intention of writing a detailed piece for HILJ for a later issue - the Newsletter being a stepping stone to preparing a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Authors Craven, Kendrick and Boynton of the searching article in this issue have plans to provide a more in-depth article of their research study in a future issue of HILJ.

When reading emails on the LIS Medical discussion list (and others) I often feel that there are opportunities for people to use these current areas of discussion/frustration/development to write a piece for the Newsletter that encompasses these opinions and problems and provides local user solutions. In these times of ever-tightening budgets, what innovative solutions are people using to survive? What are the best ways of gaining feedback from library users? What are the place of wikis? Twitter? Inspiration can come from anywhere!

Once you have an idea, then you just need to take some time to write the article. The Newsletter only requires 1000-1500 word count so it can be a relatively short piece. I always welcome contributions so please do think about submitting an article for 2012! Think of it as a New Year's resolution!

I hope you find this issue of the Newsletter useful, informative and enjoyable. See you next issue!

Elise Hasler, Editor

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

Using Evidence in Practice

After ten years as a column/feature editor for HILJ Andrew Booth has stepped down from the HILJ editorial team, with the December 2011 issue seeing the publication of his final contribution to the Using Evidence in Practice. Andrew has always stimulated lively debate as a result of his columns and is a hard act to follow so, with his departure as a feature editor, it was considered timely to review the LIS health landscape and consider whether the feature should continue in its current form or if another topic should take its place. After much rumination, the editorial board (which we are delighted that Andrew has agreed to join) decided that we should use this opportunity to engage with new LIS professionals. The final details are currently being put in place but watch out for a new feature and feature editor in HILJ in 2012.

Author Guidelines

The HILJ author guidelines have recently been amended. To facilitate an in-depth discussion of the topic area, original articles should now be between 3000-5000 words excluding references, abstract, tables, illustrations and key messages. Elsewhere, bibliometric studies should generally extend to a broad topic area or geographic region, rather than a single institution.

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Editorial

Writing academic papers: lost in translation? M.J. Grant

Review

Cost effective ways of delivering enquiry services: a rapid review. A. Sutton & M.J. Grant

Original articles

A review and rationalisation of journal subscriptions undertaken by a library and information service in a Mental Health Trust in North East England in 2009. R. Steele

Integrating evidence based practice and information literacy skills in teaching physical and occupational therapy students. J. Boruff

Effectiveness of bibliographic searches performed by pediatric residents and interns assisted by librarians. A randomised controlled trial. P. Gardois, R. Calabrese, N. Colombi, A. Deplano, C. Lingua, F. Longo, M.C. Villanacci, R. Miniero, A. Piga

Evidence based medicine: is the evidence out there for primary care clinicians? K. Davies

Evaluating the quality of websites relating to diet and eating disorders. R. Guardiola-Wanden-Berghe, J. Sanz-Valer, J. Gil-Perez, C. Wanden-Berghe

A study of information seeking behaviour of hospital pharmacists: empirical evidence from Greece. P. Kostagiolas, V. Aggelopoulou, D. Niakas

Physicians utilisation of internet medical databases at the tertiary health institutions in Osun State, South West Nigeria. N. Shabi, O. Shabi, M. Akewukereke, E. Udofia

Regular Features

International Perspectives and Initiatives

Trend spotting – whither health science Librarianship? J. Murphy

Learning and Teaching in Action

Developing the skills and competence of health librarians through the use of professional accreditation model. S. Clarke & Z. Thomas

Using Evidence in Practice

Bridging the 'Know-Do Gap': a role for health information professionals? A. Booth

Maria Grant, Editor and Penny Bonnett, Assistant Editor. HILJ.

Email: m.j.grant@salford.ac.uk and pabonnett@tiscali.co.uk

Sub-Group News

IFM Healthcare

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 show 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 C.V.!

Email Jane Surtees Jane.Surtees@derbyhospitals.nhs.uk or Catherine Ebenezer catherine.ebenezer@tewv.nhs.uk if you're interested in contributing a one-off or regular article for INFORM.

IFMH Members Discussion List

Our discussion list has moved to JISCMail. To post to the list members just need to email ifmh-members@jiscmail.ac.uk. The purpose of the list is to provide a safe and supportive environment in which you, our members, can share information, questions and thoughts with your fellow members and us, the IFMH committee. So, if you have a burning question you've always wanted to know the answer to, have a resource you wish to share, or if you'd just like us to know what you're thinking, now's the time! Visit <http://www.ifmh.org.uk/discussion.html> for details.

Elisabeth Chalmers, Publicity Co-ordinator, IFM Healthcare.

Email: Elisabeth.Chalmers@kingstonhospital.nhs.uk

Libraries for Nursing (LfN)

Committee

After many years with the LfN Committee our Chair Jane Shelley has announced her intention to stand down. We would like to thank her for her contribution over the years. We will be looking for a new chair for 2012 to help LfN fulfil its brief. If you are interested and would like to discuss this role further then please contact librariesfornursing@cilip.org.uk

Study Days

Our 2011 Study Day on 'Tried and Tested Technologies' took place in Sheffield on November 11th. Look out for a report of the day in our 2012 Bulletin.

HLG Conference 2012

LfN will be at the 2012 HLG conference. We will be offering to sponsor the registration fees of an attendee who is happy to write for our Bulletin. Keep an eye on this column and our mailing list for more details next year.

Membership

If you wish to subscribe or renew your subscription to the LfN bulletin for 2012 (you receive copies of our bulletin and get reduced rates at Study Days) please contact Alison Paul our membership secretary – details are on our website: www.cilip.org.uk/lfn or email: alison.paul@asph.nhs.uk

Bethan Carter, Secretary, Libraries for Nursing
Email: bethan.carter@york.nhs.uk

HLG Wales

No news this session

Articles

Commissioning Handbook for Librarians – where is it going?

The Commissioning Handbook for Librarians which can be found at: <http://commissioning.pbworks.com> is a wiki based resource that has been developed by – and for – the NHS library community to support NHS staff involved in the commissioning of health services.

The aim of the Handbook is to provide a working collection which contributors regard as key resources and good starting–points for investigation as well as examples of best practice amongst library services. It was created to fulfil a need recognised by librarians who were increasingly being asked to find out about service development, and retrieve service specifications, and information about models of service developed by other trusts. Answers to these questions lie deep in Board papers, government documents, reports and case studies – the ‘grey literature’ which is not readily retrieved from traditional library resources or databases. Colleagues recognised that this was a new area for most librarians and this led to discussions about the quality of the service they were providing, and how it could be improved and shared. The answer came in the form of a wiki – one of the new online collaborative tools which can be accessed by all, developed and maintained on a shoestring and is flexible enough to be adapted as the landscape changes. (For a detailed description of the early development of the Handbook see the article by Alison Price¹)

The structure of the Handbook reflects the stages of the commissioning cycle and was guided by World Class Commissioning, at the time a new government approach to commissioning of health service in which evidence based practice and knowledge management was key.² When the Handbook was conceived Specialist Collections around Commissioning and Health Management were available via the National Library for Health. These were key collections of resources compiled by the Kings Fund and the Handbook aimed to compliment, not duplicate, these collections giving librarians both a supplementary place to look and a place to share their findings with others.

Following a rapid development phase the Handbook (then known as the Commissioning wiki) went live in late 2008. Since then the landscape of NHS primary care in England has changed radically following the election of a new coalition government, the mothballing of the World Class Commissioning initiative, introduction of the Health & Social Care Bill heralding GP consortia and then Clinical Commissioning Groups. In some cases, the radical restructure of PCTs and SHAs has been accompanied by the loss of some primary care librarian posts, and the services they offered. In addition the dispersal of the former NLH Health Management and Commissioning Specialist Collections across NHS Evidence has left librarians and health managers without ready access to key collections at a time of major change across the NHS. Primary care clinicians, most of whom have little or no previous experience in service development, are asking questions relating to commissioning and management of services. Library and information services must

¹ Price, Alison **The Commissioning Handbook: dynamic collaboration**
Inform: newsletter of IfM Healthcare 2010; 20(2): 14-18. <http://ifmh.org.uk/commwiki.pdf>

² DH **World Class Commissioning – Vision** (2007)
http://www.dh.gov.uk/dr_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_080953.pdf

be prepared to pick up these questions from the clinicians in their new roles to support evidence based development of high quality services and to brief clinicians on their new role. Further, librarians will want to demonstrate the contribution they can make in the new commissioning support landscape. Because of its flexibility the Handbook is ideally placed to provide practical support to information professionals - a new page around the coalition government health policies and another on Clinical Commissioning Groups have been added to reflect political changes on the ground.

One of the original aims of the Handbook was to provide a place to share searches and strategies which may be of interest to others, not as examples of best practice but rather as a means of sharing learning amongst librarians, enabling improvement in knowledge and skills across this emerging area. In practice few searches have been put forward – whether through lack of time, lack of confidence, or because searches have not been considered to be of interest to others is unclear. However involvement in the Ask an Expert service at <http://www.pcc-cic.org.uk/ask-an-expert> is a key development to support collaborative working and to raise the profile of libraries to commissioners. NHS Library and Knowledge Services from across the country have joined with NHS Primary Care Commissioning (See <http://www.pcc.nhs.uk>) and the South East Coast Quality Observatory to pilot this new online help desk for NHS Commissioners who have questions about data sets, contracts, rules of competition and procurement as well as evidence from research. Library services from across England have volunteered to take questions from NHS staff in their locality and hopefully form new links between commissioners and their local NHS libraries. The resulting reports are being shared through the Handbook. See <http://commissioning.pbworks.com/08-2--Examples-of-search-strategies>

Development of the Handbook is under the guidance of a Steering Group and regional champions from each SHA. The Handbook initially benefited from some funding from NLH, and later SHALL for project management, administrative and website support. This was particularly important in the initial development phase, and to ensure that the pages are kept up to date to a standard expected from a group of information professionals. In recent months a large number of broken links to the Commissioning and Health Management Specialist Collections have been removed. With the changes to SHAs and library services the future of funding is uncertain.

Over the past year there have been nearly 2,000 visitors to the Handbook, over 300 of whom have visited 9 or more times. If this is a useful tool worth revisiting, it is important that librarians maintain and develop it, supporting our ongoing work with commissioners of the future.

See the latest additions to the Handbook by signing up for the **Commissioning Handbook for Librarians Newsletter** here: <http://eepurl.com/ft8xn>

Please note: I have put together a number of useful commissioning web links which will be published in the next issue (March) of the Newsletter in the Internet Sites of Interest column.

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Cochrane project: a comparison of searching CDSR and CENTRAL via Wiley and Ovid

Introduction

In 2010/11 users of the Cochrane Library via Wiley experienced a number of issues, such as timing out during searches, loss of searches, and displaying incorrect results. As a result, an internal project was set up by the Information Services (IS) team at the National Institute for Health and Clinical Evidence (NICE) to compare searching Cochrane CDSR and CENTRAL via Wiley and Ovid, with a view to being able to interrogate both interfaces effectively and provide the team with alternative access points to the Cochrane Library. This article provides a summary of the project, with examples of the initial findings and a request for feedback.

Aims

The aims of the project were to:

- Compare aspects of search functionality between Wiley and Ovid, including identifying the 'best match' for commonly used syntax between the two interfaces
- Identify any discrepancies in the way comparative search syntax are interpreted and executed across the two interfaces
- Investigate and explain any discrepancies identified
- Compare other aspects of provision between the two interfaces

Methods

Detailed cross comparisons were undertaken of a selection of search functions including truncation, proximity operators, MeSH terms, and free text searching. Appropriate terms were selected from existing strategies applied by the IS team in Interventional Procedures (IP) and Guideline Review (GR) searches to explore each of the search functions. In addition to search functionality, other aspects of provision were also explored for comparative purposes, e.g. timing of updates, licensing arrangements.

Findings

Our initial findings indicate that there are some differences in search functionality across the two interfaces, which need to be taken into account. For example:

We found significant differences in the syntax used to retrieve records by MeSH headings from CDSR between the two interfaces. In CDSR via Ovid single MeSH terms are searched for using the suffix **.kw**, as opposed to the more common syntax of **'** and there is no option to explode MeSH headings in CDSR via Ovid; instead the top level heading and all narrower terms need to be entered on separate lines suffixed by **.kw** and then combined together using Boolean **'OR'**.

When searching Free text/ All fields in CDSR the project identified small differences in retrieval. For example, 'evidence tables' and 'reference list' text is included in a Wiley **'all text'** search but not included in an Ovid **.tw** search, noting that **.tw** is equivalent to full text searching **.tx** in CDSR.

When applying proximity operators we found differences in the way words are counted. For example, a search in the Wiley interface using **Near/3** refers to the first search term plus the next two words, and all words are counted (including stop words). This differs from Ovid, where **Adj3** refers to three words between search terms and stop words are not included in the count. Based on this finding, the project recommended, when searching CDSR or CENTRAL in Wiley, using the **Near** proximity operator as the preferred proximity operator (equivalent to near/6), and as a

reasonable equivalent to using adj3 in Ovid. A lower proximity operator can be used where necessary, but taking into account that the first search term and stopwords are included in the count.

The search syntax presented in the table and explanation below represent what we found to be the 'best match' between the Wiley interface and the Ovid interface:

| Database | Truncation | Proximity operators | MeSH | Exp MeSH | Free text - All fields | Free text - ti, ab, kw/hw | Free text - ti,ab |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------|
| OVID CENTRAL | * | adj3 | MeSH/ | Exp MeSH/ | - | ti, ab, hw | ti, ab or tw ¹ |
| OVID CDSR | * | adj3 | kw | Include all terms as kw and Or/ together | tw ² | ti, ab, kw | ti,ab ² |
| Wiley -Cochrane Library | * | Near or lower proximity e.g. Near/4 | MeSH/ ⁴ | MesH explode all trees | Search All ³ text (i.e. term with no suffix) | ti, ab, kw – includes 'Plain Language Summary' | ti,ab |

1 Preferred free text searching mode for Ovid CENTRAL

2 Preferred free text searching modes for Ovid CDSR, but note that .tw is equivalent to full text searching in CDSR

3 Preferred free text searching mode for Wiley

4 Note: in Wiley check tags (e.g. adult, child, male, female) need to be searched for using .kw

Discussion and request for feedback

The comparisons undertaken found that it is possible to successfully search CDSR and CENTRAL via both Wiley and Ovid. It should be noted, however, that even when executing comparable search strategies across the two interfaces there will always be differences in the number of records retrieved because of differences in the way searches for MeSH headings are executed (CDSR), differences in the fields searched across in an 'all text' search (CDSR) and differences in the way proximity operators perform (CDSR and CENTRAL). The search syntax presented in this article simply attempts to offer a 'best match' when developing search strategies using the Wiley interface and the Ovid interface.

The project was undertaken by the IS team at NICE for internal purposes and the findings have been disseminated to information professionals at organisations contracted by NICE/NHS Evidence to undertake information work, including the Technology Appraisal Assessment Groups, Guideline and Public Health Collaborating Centres and Evidence Hubs, for the purpose of sharing practice.

This article provides a summary of the project, and the initial findings, also for the purpose of sharing practice; the authors would welcome any feedback or comments from HLG Newsletter readers, especially from anyone who has undertaken similar comparisons. Please use the contact details provided.

A follow up article focussing on the results of the project in more depth is planned for a future issue of HILJ.

Jenny Craven, Information Specialist, NICE [jennifer.craven@nice.org.uk]

Jenny Kendrick, Information Specialist, NICE [jenny.kendrick@nice.org.uk]

Janette Boynton, Snr Information Specialist, NICE [janette.boynton@nice.org.uk]

Internet sites of interest

The last column

Some additions to the September column on obtaining inter library loans.

<http://www.ksslibraries.nhs.uk/catalogues/> does include NHS libraries from the south west of England but is the Health Libraries Network catalogues, with links to serials lists for Kent, Sussex and Surrey, NHS South West and NHS South Central, London Health Libraries and more.

The Forum for Interlending and Information Delivery has a new site at www.forumforinterlending.org.uk. The site hosted by CILIP will close soon.

There are two additions to the column: the Nursing Union List of Journals, NULJ (<http://www.uhl-library.nhs.uk/nulj/index.html>), based at University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust; and ULSERS, organised in Yorkshire, Humberside and the North East of England (contact Hugh.Hanchard@STEEES.NHS.UK).

My thanks to Moya Bennett, Graham Titley and Gill Kaye for information.

Medical statistics

Here are some sites on the subject of medical statistics. There are a few sources of actual statistical data at the end. If you spot any errors, please let me know, and please do let me have suggestions of sites to add. My contact details are at the end of the column. I checked all links on 9th November 2011.

Advances in Physiology Education - Statistical Perspectives

<http://advan.physiology.org/content/35/2/129.long>

To address statistical shortcomings in submitted articles, the journal is publishing a new series of articles, announced in this article. They are also being published in The Journal of Physiology, Experimental Physiology, The British Journal of Pharmacology, Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology and Physiology, and Microcirculation.

Centre for Statistics in Medicine (University of Oxford)

<http://www.csm-oxford.org.uk/statistical-resources/>

Statistical resources for conducting clinical trials. They include a glossary and a comparison of statistical software (Stata, R, SPSS, and others)

David Spiegelhalter

<http://www.statslab.cam.ac.uk/Dept/People/Spiegelhalter/davids.html>

David Spiegelhalter is the Winton Professor of the Public Understanding of Risk at the University of Cambridge and maintains a website on "Understanding uncertainty". There is a link to the site from here, as well a list of publications and details of other resources. I have heard Professor Spiegelhalter on the BBC Radio 4 programme "More or less", which "explains the numbers and statistics used in political debate, the news and everyday life". The More or Less website is at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qshd>.

Electronic Statistics Textbook (StatSoft)

<http://www.statsoft.com/textbook/>

Free online textbook. StatSoft produce the Statistica software.

Ganfyd – Medical Statistics

http://www.ganfyd.org/index.php?title=Medical_statistics

Ganfyd is a wiki edited by medical professionals and invited experts. Ganfyd is “Get a Note From Your Doctor”.

How to read a paper - statistics for the non-statistician

<http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-readers/publications/how-read-paper>

This series of BMJ articles by Trisha Greenhalgh became a book, now in its 4th edition and very useful for teaching and doing critical appraisal. The book will have chapters on statistics, but the original articles are available online here. You can also access their Statistics Notes article series at <http://www.bmj.com/bmj-series/statistics-notes>.

Little handbook of statistical practice (Gerard Dallal)

<http://www.jerrydallal.com/LHSP/LHSP.HTM>

Just that. May be several years old, but I imagine that the basics are not any different.

Maths, Statistics and OR Network

<http://mathstore.ac.uk/>

Part of the Higher Education Academy, supporting teaching and learning in HE. Resources include software, a newsletter, and student resources, some rather more mathematical than statistical.

Online Statistics Education: an interactive multimedia course of study

<http://onlinestatbook.com/2/>

By David M. Lane of Rice University (see also the Rice Virtual Lab, below).

Open Courseware Consortium

<http://www.ocwconsortium.org/>

Open courseware is freely available learning material (on lots of topics, some of them statistical). This site includes material from a number of institutions including MIT, Tufts, the Open University and the University of Nottingham. Other sources of learning materials are JORUM (<http://www.jorum.ac.uk>) and MERLOT (<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm>).

Rice Virtual Lab in Statistics

<http://onlinestatbook.com/rvls/>

Includes a link to the Hyperstat online textbook, as well as simulations, case studies and statistical analysis tools. Rice University is in Houston, Texas.

Significance – Statistics Making Sense

<http://www.significancemagazine.org/view/index.html>

Published by Wiley and part of membership of the Royal Statistical Society and the American Statistical Association, this magazine offers a “statistical view of what is going on in the world”. Recent topics include the August riots in England, and the birth of the seven billionth baby.

Stat Trek

<http://www.stattrek.com/>

Training and tools for self directed learning, amongst quite a lot of adverts for this and that.

Statistics at Square One, 9th ed.

<http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/readers/statistics-at-square-one/>

Earlier edition of this book by Swinscow (the book is now in its 11th edition), free to read.

Supercourse

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/>

A repository of lectures on global health and prevention. Lectures can be browsed by topic – look under Statistics.

Teaching Statistics – a Journal for Teachers

<http://www.rsscse-educ.org.uk/tsj/>

A journal for school teachers. Its anthologies of teaching ideas are free to read and may provide ideas.

Wolfram Library Archive

<http://library.wolfram.com/infocenter/BySubject/Mathematics/ProbabilityStatistics/>

List of articles, courseware and other resources. Wolfram are the developers of the Wolfram Alpha computational knowledge engine.

Sources of actual statistics

Here are a few:

Where can I find medical statistics on a topic?

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/statistics.html>

An FAQ page from the NLM, with sources of US statistics and a few sources of international ones.

HSR Information Central

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hsrinfo/datasites.html>

From the NICHSR (go to the link to find out what this stands for!), part of the NLM. Data, tools and statistics for health services research.

At the University of Leicester we have listed some sources of statistical data on our **Medical and Health Statistics page** at

<http://www.le.ac.uk/library/find/subjects/medicine/statistics>. There is also

Eurostat, <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home>.

Have you got an idea for a column? Or want to write a column? Let me know. My contact details are:

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Contributions should be sent to khn5@le.ac.uk*

Meeting reports

Umbrella 2011: University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield. 12-13 July 2011

Umbrella 2011 came at a pivotal time for CILIP and also for the profession. CILIP had recently launched its new structure under new chief executive Annie Mauger (like me a first-timer at Umbrella), while the broader profession had, in the face of cuts and 'downsizing', enjoyed recent media coverage and the emergence of campaigns like **Voices for the Library & Save our Libraries Day**. Add to this the **fall in CILIP's membership** and 'postponement' of CILIP's training programme, and there was certainly plenty for background discussion.

This was my first Umbrella conference and I was able to attend the full conference through one of four HLG bursaries. I had a number of reasons for applying and wanting to attend; first, and foremost, I had played a small role in drawing up the HLG proposals as a member of the HLG CPD group. Secondly, I had been invited to chair a joint HLG / International Library & Information Group (ILIG) session and thirdly, I had never had the opportunity to attend CILIP's 'flagship' conference. The application process was relatively painless and I would certainly advise any HLG members who are planning to attend the HLG Conference in 2012, or indeed any similar conferences both in the UK and abroad, but struggling to find the funding **to consider this**.

As a 'first-timer' I found myself making the inevitable comparison with other conferences I have attended, and most significantly HLG. Both conferences have multiple streams and on certain occasions, you have to make a tough decision between what you would like to see. It was, from my perspective, more often a good decision in so far as a choice between a number of presentations you would like to see rather than a bad decision in so far as the one you would least like to not see.

Whereas, the HLG conference specifically targets the health information professional, Umbrella addresses the broader profession. This means that there are presentations which at a first glance do not directly appeal to your 'generic' health information professional / HLG member (if such a creature exists) but are more sector specific. However, there is certainly a case to be made that the challenges we face within the health information sector are similar to those the rest of the profession faces. For example, can we justify our existence and measure the impact we are making on the broader society? All information providers continually need to evaluate the impact of our services, look at making the most of new technologies and explore ways in which to promote our services.

In addition to the speakers invited by HLG (most ably covered within earlier conference reports), some of the presentations I attended which didn't have a 'health slant' were particularly useful. Ned Potter and Laura Woods' talk entitled "**escaping the echo chamber**" made me reflect on how a library operating within the NHS could look to influence beyond the traditional service supporters, similarly certain aspects of Christine Rooney-Browne's insight into the evaluation of public library services could be transferred to the health sector. Similarly Gerald Leitner's keynote presentation brought home the fact that libraries across the globe are facing similar challenges and there are ways we can learn from others through international collaboration. However the highlight of the conference for me was a collaborative workshop organised by the Diversity, International and Prison Library Groups with 5 simultaneous speakers getting their points across in less than 15 minutes. I found the

approach stimulating as the speakers needed to get straight to the point, didn't rely on the safety blanket of powerpoint while the competing interests, at least for me, encouraged a deeper level of concentration.

So, why do so few health librarians attend? The presentations with a more specific medical slant were unfortunately amongst the most sparsely attended while the HLG AGM just about reached quorum (following the sterling efforts of the HLG Umbrella representative acting as the Librarian equivalent of a Chief Whip). There are certainly reasons why we should attend but in this time of tightening purse strings, is it more difficult for us to justify attending conferences that do not have a specific medical or health slant? (in which case see paragraph two). Do we feel slightly disenfranchised with the rest of the profession? It is fair to say that much of the media coverage and the local and national campaigns, like Save Our Libraries, earlier this year although important to the profession, doesn't appear to have had a significantly medical slant even though health information providers face similar cuts and closures. Similarly, the last few issues of Update have contained very limited references to medical librarianship - true to form [the latest issue](#) bucks the trend. There are certainly areas where we could learn from fellow professionals in the same way that our fellow professionals could learn from us.

Although I do feel that I gained more from attending HLG conferences in so far as I could directly relate my learning to an operational perspective, I would certainly encourage anyone who hasn't had the opportunity yet to consider attending Umbrella 2013. There is a significant amount of pride in the profession and this was evident through the large numbers of new professionals and first-timers who attended and it felt good to step outside the health 'echo-chamber' and be part of this.

Doug Knock, South London Healthcare NHS Trust

Umbrella 2011: University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield. 12-13 July 2011

I was thrilled to be awarded a bursary from the Health Libraries Group to fund my attendance to the CILIP Umbrella 2011. Library services across the disciplines are going through "interesting times" and one reason for attending this event was that I hoped that I could better my overall view across the library community, it's easy to get blinkered to your own particular circumstances.

Gerald Leitner's plenary speech galvanised that sense of community as he outlined the very real threat that European Libraries as a whole faced if the Library Community did not sit up and start lobbying the European parliament right now. Copyright law for e- publications and e- books were a world apart from hard copy publications and entirely led by publishers who had a tight grip on our wallets as well as policies. Does the current economic crisis make this a bad time to talk about a European library policy? Maybe, but if not now, when? Librarians need to be proactive as politicians are simply unaware of the situation that we face. He left those of us assembled with a sense of foreboding for the future but also rallied our spirits; as a community, right across Europe, we were joined in an equal struggle. He ended his talk, somewhat unnervingly with, a reference to Stephane Hessle's hugely controversial "Time for Outrage" (Quartet Books; 2010), a call for non-violent action and for a peaceful uprising against the powers of finance capitalism.

DAY 1

Libraries in the Big Society – Big Society Big Opportunity

With a major concern for keeping information freely available, particularly for the older members of society who are more likely to struggle with computer literacy, The DWP are working closely with the Citizens Advice Bureau to ensure that the message got through whilst also avoiding “Knowledge Overload.” There is currently a debate weighing up the statutory obligation to deliver knowledge alongside the problems associated with the locally provided volunteer workers not really being obliged to deliver when needed but more likely to be contributing to services as and when it suits them. He also asked who is going to pay for this and how?

Skills & Professionalism: Opportunities for Librarians to Embrace Changes

“The librarian must be the librarian militant before he can be the librarian triumphant.”

Melville Dewey

Sharon Jones muses does qualification and experience count? More importantly can we supply what people want? We are now at a stage of fighting for survival and the librarian must be a strategist, a leader, a practitioner and more. We need to be prepared and have our survival bags packed, à la Bear Grylls. *“If libraries were created tomorrow people would flock to them.”*

Ned Potter outlines his ideas that we need to go beyond the walls of Librarian talking to Librarian. We must escape the Echo Chamber, focusing on reaching those outside the profession so that they can understand what we are really about and how relevant we really are. Lauren Smith reminds us that we must align policy with what library users really require and don't waste time promoting services that people don't require. I would recommend you all pop over to the Wikimas's web page or check out Ned Potter's and Lauren Smith's UB11 presentations on Prezi.com.

Technologies & Access – Store, Preserve and Retrieve

Susan Ashworth outlines the 2 paths to open access:

Gold Path - The Author or institution can pay a fee to the publisher at time of publication with the material then being free at point of access.

Green Path - The Author can self-archive at the time of submission

We must promote our in-house research and make it fully available within our own institutions.

The Gala Dinner at Sopwell House

Bonnie Greer held the room in the palm of her hand whilst she delivered her superb after dinner speech. Her passion for libraries and her high regard for those of us that work in them was genuinely profound and, I felt, was a fitting end to the day. It seemed a reflection of Gerard Leitner's call for action and was equally heartfelt, both calling for us to pull ourselves up by our boot straps, hold our chins high and be proud of what we can offer our local and international communities. And as she completed her speech with a reading of *Langston Hughes 'The Negro Speaks of Rivers'* there was hardly a dry eye in the house.

DAY 2

Promotion & Advocacy – New LIS Roles Supporting Dissemination of Research

Joanna Ball - It is the role of the Librarian to support researchers as consumers and producers and we can play a vital role in each stage of the Research Lifecycle:

- 1) Ideas,
- 2) Funding,
- 3) Experimentation,
- 4) Result Dissemination

The Future holds new roles for the librarian, changes in access and to the publishing world mean that we must become more outward facing.

Almuth Gastinger - We have the knowledge, services & skills but do researchers know this? We must align ourselves to researcher's work flow and specific user needs.

"The Embedded Librarian and Data Curators are the future" Tomas Baiget. Nicolas Robinson Garcia - The Embedded Librarian is solely focused on the user/researcher, whereas the academic librarian is more focused on the library. Reflecting Joanna Ball's earlier outline he demonstrated how the Embedded Librarian was essential for each stage of research from helping with funding applications to gaining visibility using web2.0 and Social media. He even got a gasp from across the auditorium when he stated that he took the final decision as to which journal the research should be published in!

Workshop: tools and techniques – IT for the LIS Professional

Alan Poultnier delivered 2 presentations single handed, skipping from one side of the desk to the other with great skill, but my less skilled note-taking does not do him justice.

All library staff must surely be competent in the basic IT skills such as switching on and setting defaults but can we clear the cache and delete temporary files? Do we know where and how to store and access computer files? We must have a regular back up regime and weekly scanning procedures. It was suggested that we learn the technical jargon of the IT specialist so that we can be clearer with them when discussing what we need.

Skills and Professionalism – Imagination and LIS Research

"The true sign of Intelligence is not knowledge but imagination" Einstein

Paul Sturges tells us that a lot of terrible research is bound by convention, you must ask yourself 'is this a question that I really want to answer'? Am I really interested enough to care? If there is no interest then this will become transparent in your output. David Streatfield discussed why the best research is personal, why does it matter in a politicised world? I was so wrapped in this presentation that I simply stopped taking notes but I would recommend that you visit *the Information Management Associates* site: <http://www.informat.org/index.html>



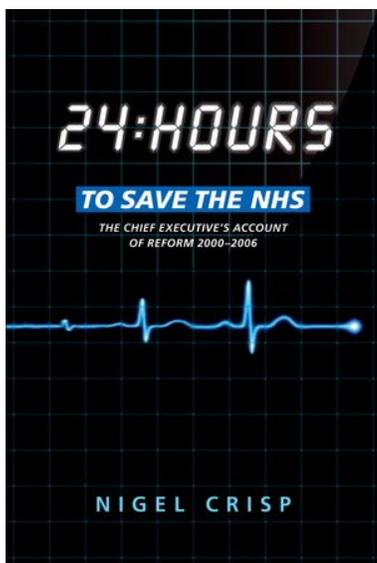
Goodies Stash



Lovely Lady Librarians at Gala Dinner

Jo Hooper, University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust

Book review



Crisp, Nigel. *24 hours to save the NHS: The Chief Executive's account of reform 2000-2006*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. ISBN 9780199639953, 229 pages. £14.99.

“24 hours to save the NHS!” That was the election slogan of Tony Blair in 1997. The practical result was the NHS Plan of 2000, an ambitious 10-year plan of service improvement, combined with an unprecedented increase in funding. This book is written by Nigel Crisp, who was Chief Executive of the NHS from 2000 to 2006, and represents his reflections on that period.

Crisp contends that the NHS was in decline in the 1990s, its very future in peril. That situation had been turned around by 2010, with the highest ever levels of patient satisfaction, patients switching from the private sector to the NHS, and all political parties

backing the NHS. The NHS had been saved, but the question hanging over the book is whether it is sustainable.

The author envisions most readers will dip into the book as different aspects of the NHS Plan are discussed. Improvements were ruthlessly pursued through targets and star ratings. Power was shifted to Primary Care Trusts, patients were given more choice (and the money followed them), hospitals were given (some) independence as Foundation Trusts, and the private sector was increasingly used to improve services.

Crisp has included the background to Agenda for Change and the GP and Consultant contracts. Here the tensions among members of the Labour party were apparent: an election promise to raise nurses' pay, and suspicion of the private practices of consultants.

Crisp understands the importance of evidence. He recalls Muir Gray visiting him on his appointment as Chief Executive of the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust in 1993 and buying him a copy of Sackett's book on evidence-based-practice. NHS Evidence is mentioned in the context of the achievements of NICE.

The chapter on finance is most revealing. Tony Blair's 2000 promise to raise health spending to the OECD average was not achieved by 2010, largely because other OECD countries increased their spending too, thus raising the average. Often the desire for quick and visible results led to the increased spending itself being trumpeted as an achievement, rather than the hard and necessary work of restructuring. The challenge for the next few years is that NHS spending is set to grow by the lowest amount for over 30 years.

Crisp gives his insights into leading the NHS. He focused on building relationships with SHA Chief Executives, and with a “guiding coalition” of key people at the top. Changes in personnel after the 2005 General Election and renewed NHS

reorganisation fatally weakened his authority at a time of financial problems due to overexpansion and led to his decision to retire in 2006.

Looking to the future, Crisp emphasises that the function of the NHS is to help people, often with chronic conditions, to live independent lives. Yet it is structured to deal with short-lived acute episodes. He questions the future of district general hospitals, and argues for a more locally focussed NHS building “inside out” on what is already present in communities.

This book will be of interest to those involved in NHS management and policy, especially those who were working in the NHS in the period. As the author says it is a book to be dipped into, so that its wisdom can help avoid the mistakes of the past.

Stephen Ayre, George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust



Dawson H. *Know it all, find it fast for academic libraries.*

London: Facet Publishing, 2011.

ISBN 9781856047593. 387 pages. £49.95.

If you work in a busy academic library and deal with enquiries from students, academics and researchers, then this book will prove a useful tool to help you find quick answers to some of the many questions you will undoubtedly be asked. The book is a new version of “Know it all, find it fast” by Duckett, Walker and Donnelly. This version focuses specifically on academic library services and is intended as a practical, day-to-day reference guide for academic librarians.

The author of the book, Heather Dawson is Academic Support Librarian in the Information Services Department of the LSE Library. The body

of the book is arranged as an A-Z list of topics. Categories of topic include study skills; types of resource; academic staff questions; PhD and researcher questions; subject literature searching; and area studies resources. Each topic includes a couple of example questions, then some points to consider when answering enquiries on that topic, followed by a list of key resources that can be used to answer questions, or that enquirers can be referred to. The key resources are primarily available online, but some relevant print resources are also listed. At the start of the book, there is also a handy checklist of essential local information to be gathered and used to answer typical library enquiries, for example regarding local IT arrangements, or the local building or campus.

The book covers a wide range of topics and, although a wealth of information is included, it is not overwhelming. The sections are clearly organised and there is an index. Both in the index and in the body of the text, readers are referred to related topics within the book.

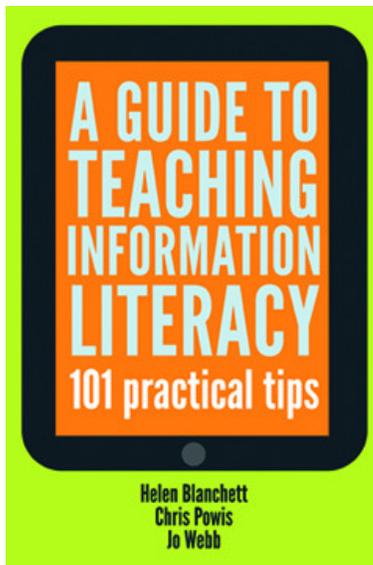
The section on medicine and nursing has a good brief overview of available websites and resources, including both free and subscription sites, with the one peculiarity that Embase is listed under “Dictionaries and encyclopaedias”, rather than “Journal article

indexes/Digital libraries". One strength is that both UK and international resources are listed. The author draws attention to the importance of locating up-to-date and, frequently, evidence-based information in the fields of medicine and nursing. This section would be useful for staff new to medical libraries, or for staff in multi-disciplinary libraries who may occasionally need to answer medical or nursing enquiries. Other sections of the book would be useful for general questions that health librarians may be asked infrequently, such as questions about qualifications, newspapers, or international students. For more experienced health librarians, though, it might be useful to have a version of this book focusing specifically on health libraries, as much of the subject literature searching material would be redundant in a health library context.

As the book contains a large number of URLs, it would be good to see an online version, or a website containing the web links that are included in the book, possibly allowing other academic librarians to supplement, or comment on, the resources that are included. An online presence would also allow for web addresses to be updated as they change.

This book would be a valuable addition to an academic library reference desk. It is reasonably priced, a concise reference work and it provides practical assistance for busy academic librarians who need to find quick and accurate answers to the varied questions posed by their users.

Heather Chesters, Friends of the Children of Great Ormond Street Library, UCL Institute of Child Health.



Blanchett, H., Powis, C., & Webb, J. *A Guide to Teaching Information Literacy: 101 practical tips*. London: Facet Publishing, 2011. ISBN: 978-1-85604-659-6. 256 pages. £49.95

As suggested by the title this is a source book on teaching information skills, aimed at information professionals across all sectors that have a teaching role. The guide is designed to offer practical guidance on planning and delivering information skills sessions to a variety of users whose abilities span a range of levels. It also includes an extensive list of activities which can be used and adapted to help achieve the session aims. One of the strengths of this book is that the authors are all experienced practitioners working in academic institutions regularly delivering information skills sessions to

users.

The book is divided into three sections: planning, delivery and activities. There are 101 practical tips, but within each of these there is additional information and warnings about possible pitfalls.

The authors have produced a resource that focuses on the practicalities of developing an information literacy programme, and delivering the programme in an interesting and interactive way. The practical advice offered is underpinned by

existing theory which is referenced at the end of each chapter. The resource is designed to be 'dipped into' as needed with the layout and writing style suited to this purpose. Having said that the Planning section can be read in a linear manner, which may be ideal for those new to the profession or for anyone setting up a new information literacy programme.

More experienced practitioners will find the Activities section gives them new ideas on how to move away from the traditional presentation based approach to an interactive approach. This section is particularly useful if you are looking at ways of developing and improving teaching, or looking at ways of moving away from a standard presentation to a more interactive style of teaching. The section is one that any information skills professional can go back to time and again for new ideas.

Within each section chapters are divided into 4 or 5 parts beginning with general information, which is referenced where necessary. There is then a guide as to when this section would be best used, followed by a section with more information, allowing the reader to further develop their understanding of key principles if they wish. The fourth section is entitled 'Watch out' and warns the reader of the possible problems or pitfalls of an approach. In the Planning section the 'Watch out' section gives particularly good advice and is clearly based on the practical experiences of the authors.

The Delivery section of the book focuses on the practical aspects of teaching sessions, from the body language of the presenter to dealing with interruptions and developing an awareness of cultural differences. This is particularly useful to those who are new to teaching, or who are experienced at teaching but are now in a different environment. Guidance on further reading is available throughout this section.

I particularly like the layout and style of this book. It is a good practical guide for teaching information skills, regardless of previous knowledge and experience. New practitioners will find good advice and references to appropriate research and documentation. Experienced practitioners will find new and innovative ideas on how to develop their information skills teaching, and all will find good advice on how to tailor information skills sessions to an appropriate audience. It pulls together a wealth of ideas and information and presents it in an easy to use layout. I would recommend anyone who is interested in developing their teaching has a copy of this on their bookshelf.

Fay Dowding, University of the West of England

Current literature

Health librarianship

Kuhn, I., Morgan, P. & Collins, A. (2011) Adapting the 23Things programme for health librarian professional education. **DSpace@Cambridge** [Internet].

<http://www.dspace.cam.ac.uk/handle/1810/238960> (Open Access)

As the title suggests, this article describes how the Cambridge University Medical Library (CUML) designed and adapted its own 23Things programme to enable health librarians to engage in continuing professional development, whilst minimising the need for staff to take time off from work.

Greyson, D. (2011) Open access and health librarians in 2011. **Journal of the Canadian Health Libraries Association**. [Internet] 32(2), pp45-49.

<http://pubs.chla-absc.ca/doi/full/10.5596/c11-021> (Open Access)

This article provides an overview of the open access (OA) movement and pays particular attention to both health information and Canadian libraries. The article also discusses the opportunities and needs for health librarians which have arisen in light of the OA movement.

Raszewski, R. (2011) A survey of librarians with a health sciences background. **Journal of the Medical Library Association**. [Internet] 99(4), pp304-306.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3193361/> (Open Access)

This article examines the reasons why librarians with a health sciences background chose this particular career route, and whether their knowledge of health sciences is of any advantage to their work as a health librarian.

Global librarianship

Sakamoto, K., Yoshitaka, M. & Nagai, T. (2011) Messages from a medical library in the earthquake-prone zone. **The Tohoku Journal of Experimental Medicine**. [Internet] 225(2), pp77-80.

http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/tjem/225/2/225_77/_article (Open Access)

This fascinating article describes the impact of the recent Japanese earthquake on the Tohoku University Medical Library, and the work which took place to restore the normal functions of the library and provide a space for research and relaxation amidst the chaos of the earthquake.

Fourie, I. & Claasen-Veldsman, R. (2011) Exploration of the needs of South African oncology nurses for current awareness services available through the Internet. **Information Research**. [Internet] 16(3).

<http://informationr.net/ir/16-3/paper484.html> (Open Access)

This article describes the results of a study examining the information needs of South African oncology nurses, and explores the various issues behind an overall lack of motivation and interest in current awareness services amongst the participants.

Library collections

Steele, R. (2011) A review and rationalisation of journal subscriptions undertaken by a library and information service in a Mental Health Trust in North-East England in 2009. **Health Information and Libraries Journal**. [Internet]. Early online publication.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1471-1842.2011.00955.x/abstract>

This article describes the processes undertaken as part of an evaluation of journal subscriptions in a mental health trust. User surveys are essential in order to determine users' overall awareness of e-resources and to highlight the need for marketing and information literacy initiatives.

Information needs

Chen, K. et al. (2011) Library use by medical students: A comparison of two curricula. **Journal of Librarianship and Information Science**. [Internet] 43(3), pp176-184.

<http://lis.sagepub.com/content/43/3/176.abstract?etoc>

This article examines the relationship between different learning contexts and medical students' use of library resources. A thorough understanding of the curriculum is essential in order for the library to meet the needs of the students it serves.

Neilson, C. & Wilson, V. (2011) "We want it now and we want it easy": Usability testing of an online health library for healthcare practitioners. **Journal of the Canadian Health Libraries Association**. [Internet] 32(2), pp51-59.

<http://pubs.chla-absc.ca/doi/full/10.5596/c11-024#> (Open Access)

This article describes the usability testing of a digital healthcare library – the Saskatchewan Health Information Resources Partnership (SHIRP). Determining the needs of healthcare professionals is an essential component of designing digital libraries.

Gilman, I. (2011) Evidence-based information-seeking behaviors of occupational therapists: a survey of recent graduates. **Journal of the Medical Library Association**. [Internet] 99(4), pp307-310.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3193355/> (Open Access)

An interesting study which examines the information-seeking behaviours of graduate occupational therapists. Professionals in this field are increasingly expected to engage in evidence-based practice and require instruction on the various processes and techniques involved.

Kath Williams, Current Awareness Service for Health (CASH)
Contributions should be sent to kath.williams@dchs.nhs.uk

Diary of events

1 – 4 February 2012

HEALTHINF 2012: International Conference on Health Informatics
Vilamoura, Algarve, Portugal

<http://www.healthinf.biostec.org>

Range of package options

26 – 28 March 2012

How to Practice EBHC (Evidence-Based Health Care)
St Hugh's College, Oxford University, Oxford

<http://www.cebm.net/index.aspx?o=6566>

£850

11 – 13 April 2012

LILAC 2012

Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland

<http://lilacconference.com/WP/>

Early bird registration until 15th January 2012. Range of package options

18 – 23 May 2012

MLA 2012 Annual Meeting and Exhibition
Seattle, WA

<http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2012/index.html>

Range of package options

11 – 15 June 2012

CHLA/ABSC Conference 2012

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

<http://www.chla-absc.ca/2012/>

Registration and fees to be announced

23 – 27 June 2012 [Pre-conference 23-24 June, Conference 25-27 June]

HTAi 2012 Annual Meeting: HTA in Integrated Care for a Patient Centered System
Bilbao, Spain

<http://www.htai2012.org/>

Early bird registration from 16 January 2012 – 30 April 2012

Fees to be announced

2 - 6 July 2012 [Pre conference 2 – 3 July, Conference 4 – 6 July]

EAHIL 2012: Health information without frontiers

UCL, Brussels, Belgium

<http://www.eahil2012.be/>

Registration and fees to be announced

3- 6 July 2012

The Nottingham Systematic Review Course

University of Nottingham, Nottingham

<http://szg.cochrane.org/workshops-and-events>

£899

12 - 13 July 2012

HLG Conference 2012: Health libraries under the microscope: perfecting your formula

Glasgow Science Centre, Glasgow, Scotland

<http://www.uhl-library.nhs.uk/hlg2012/>

Registration and fees to be announced

11 - 17 August 2012

World Library and Information Congress: 78th IFLA General Conference and Assembly

Helsinki, Finland

<http://conference.ifla.org/ifla78>

Early bird registration until 15 May 2012. Range of package options

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

Newsletter editorial notes

CILIP is the UK's professional body for library and information professionals and includes the Health Libraries Group (HLG) as one of its subgroups. 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. The HLG Newsletter is freely available to all across the globe and is posted quarterly on the HLG web site. Published by Blackwell Publishing Ltd., HILJ is the official journal of the HLG. Reduced subscription rates are available to members of HLG, the European Association for Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL), the Medical Library Association (MLA) and the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). Members wishing to subscribe to the journal should order direct from Blackwell Publishing Ltd., 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2DQ, quoting their CILIP membership number.

Contributions to the *Newsletter* should be sent to:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Editor | Elise Hasler elise.hasler@wales.nhs.uk |
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| Book review | Rebecca Dorsett rebecca.dorsett@nhs.net |
| Current literature | Kath Williams kath.williams@dchs.nhs.uk |
| Diary of events | Julia Garthwaite j.garthwaite@ucl.ac.uk |

Next Copy dates:

| Issue date | Deadline for content |
|------------|----------------------|
| March | 10 February 2012 |
| June | 11 May 2012 |
| September | 10 August 2012 |
| December | 16 November 2012 |

HLG Members email discussion list

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