

HLG Annual Report

2024



HLG Annual Report 2024

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Introduction

The year 2024 has been a remarkable one for the Health Libraries Group (HLG), marked by some significant achievements. A particular highlight, of course, was our conference which took place at the Royal College of Physicians in June 2024. The conference ran over two days seeing health librarians and informational professionals from across the UK converge for a packed programme of presentations, workshops and lightning talks. Keynotes included an introduction to our new CILIP CEO, Louis Coiffat-Gunn, insights from Sue Lacey Bryant and Jo Cornish and of course a memorable appearance from Michael Rosen. The sunny weather helped make our garden party and dinner a great success providing an opportunity for some networking over pizza and drinks at the end of the first day.

Elsewhere our CPD panel has been busy, hosting five learning and development events this year, reaching approximately 200 people. Our Carbon Literacy event was jointly organised with our new sustainability leads marking the start of our journey into doing more in this area. We popped up at CILIP's first Members' Fest in October with a session introducing randomised coffee trials to our members. In November we saw our very own Maria Grant (Editor-in-Chief, Health Information and Libraries Journal) deliver the Bishop and LeFanu lecture.

Our policy work remained focused on promoting the value and role of health librarians to policymakers and external organisations. We contributed to several consultations, including those on the NICE prioritisation process, the NHS Education Funding Agreement, and the Unlocking eBooks Project. We also welcomed Neena Shukla Morris to the Committee as a Policy Assistant alongside our existing lead Ruth Carlyle. A personal highlight for the Co-Chairs was our trip to the parliamentary reception to celebrate the role of libraries with CILIP, Libraries Connected and nine other library sector organisations.

As we look forward, we are excited about the upcoming 14th International Congress on Medical Librarianship in Glasgow in 2026 and our continued efforts to provide valuable resources and support to our members. As ever we could not do this without the hard work and continued dedication of all our committee volunteers, we take this opportunity to thank each of you for everything you do.

Lynsey Hawker and Lesley Allen, Co-Chairs, Health Libraries Group

2024 Committee members

The HLG Committee is made up of volunteers:

Co-Chairs: Lynsey Hawker and Lesley Allen

Honorary Secretary: Amanda Balaam

Membership Secretary: Alison Paul

Honorary Treasurer: David Law

Conference Lead: Imrana Ghumra

Core Collections Lead: Preeti Puligari

CPD Leads: Hong-Anh Nguyen and Paul Cannon

Marketing and Communications Lead: Potenza Atiogbe

Policy: Ruth Carlyle (Lead) and Neena Shukla Morris

International Lead: Yasmin Noorani

Newsletter Editors: Alice Cleaver, Celestina Xu, Stephen Reid

Awards Coordinator: Cheryl Francis

HILJ Editor: Maria Grant

Sustainability Leads: Adam Tocock and Janine Hall

Publicity Material Lead: Phillip Barlow

Committee members: Sarah Hennessy, Phillip Barlow

The Health Libraries Group (HLG) is a UK based network of individuals working in or professionally interested in health and social care. Our strength is our diverse and active membership covering all geographical areas of the UK as well as European and International members. Our members work within health and social care, academia, civil service, professional associations, voluntary and public sectors. We welcome students and those interested in Knowledge, Library and Information Services as well as those working with data and informatics.

CPD Panel members

- Hong-Anh Nguyen (Co-Chair)
- Paul Cannon (Co-Chair)
- Alison Horner-le-Riche
- Alison Paul
- Bali Moore
- Daniel Park
- Emma Gibbs
- Emma Ramstead
- Imrana Ghumra
- Janine Hall
- Katrina Hall
- Kerry Booth
- Neena Shukla Morris
- Philip Barlow
- Potenza Atiogbe
- Victoria Robertson

Marketing and Communications Team

- Phillip Barlow (Publicity Material Lead)
- Alison Day (NHS 'A Million Decisions' Lead)
- Alex Martin (HLG News proof-reader and Social Link Lead).

Health Library & Information Services Directory (HLISD) Representatives

- Lynsey Hawker
- Preeti Puligari

HLG Activities 2024

Membership

In 2024 the total membership was 1107. The following graphs and tables break this total down to show membership by age group (Figure 1), UK membership (Figure 2) and overseas membership (Figure 3), membership by sector (Figure 4) and the type of CILIP membership people hold (Figure 5).

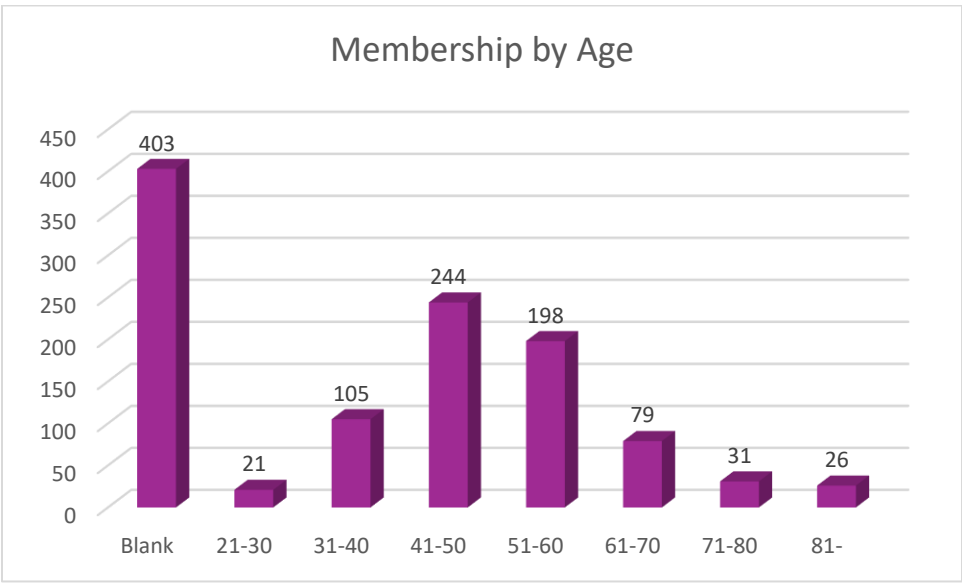


Figure 1: Membership by age.

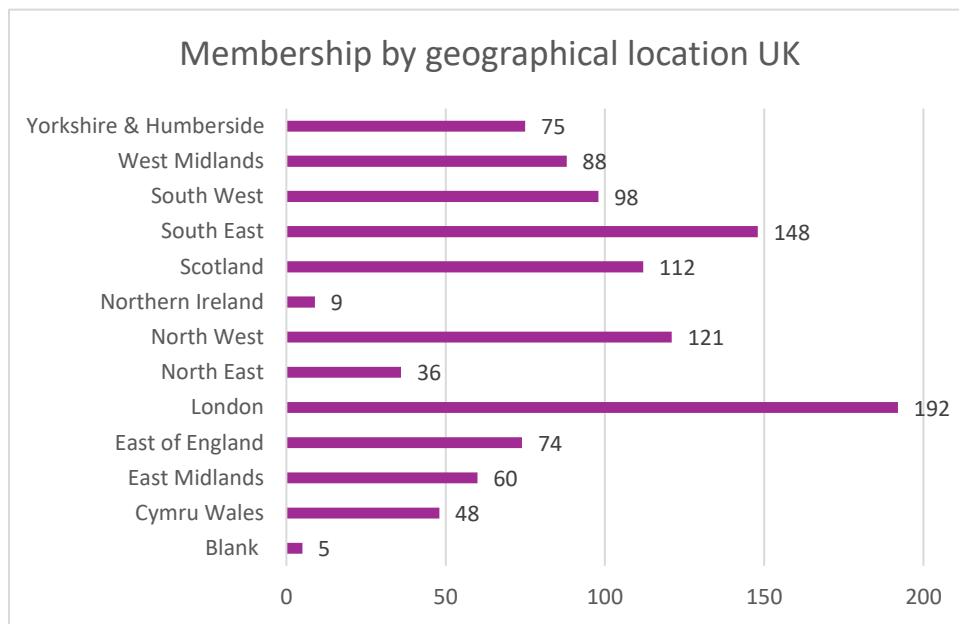


Figure 2: Membership by geographical location in the UK

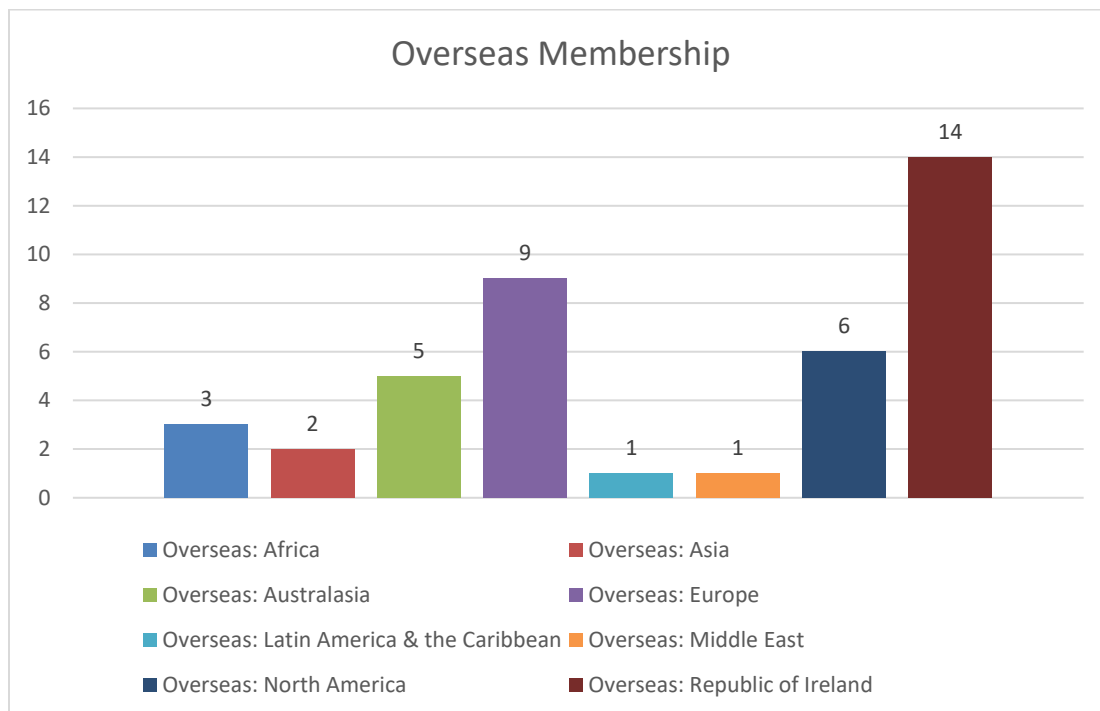


Figure 3: Membership by geographical location outside of the UK

Sector	Members
Blank	80
Consulting/Independent Information Professional	12
Further Education	16
Government and Armed Forces	33
Health Care	521
Higher Education	192
Industry (Commercial Services)	8
Industry (Manufacturing)	4
Law	2
Museums, Archives, Galleries and Heritage	9
National Libraries	13
Not For Profit/Third Sector/Charity	18
Not Working	36
Other	34
Prison	2
Public	80
Research	9
School	31
Social Care	2
Special Collections	5
Total	1107

Figure 4: Membership by sector

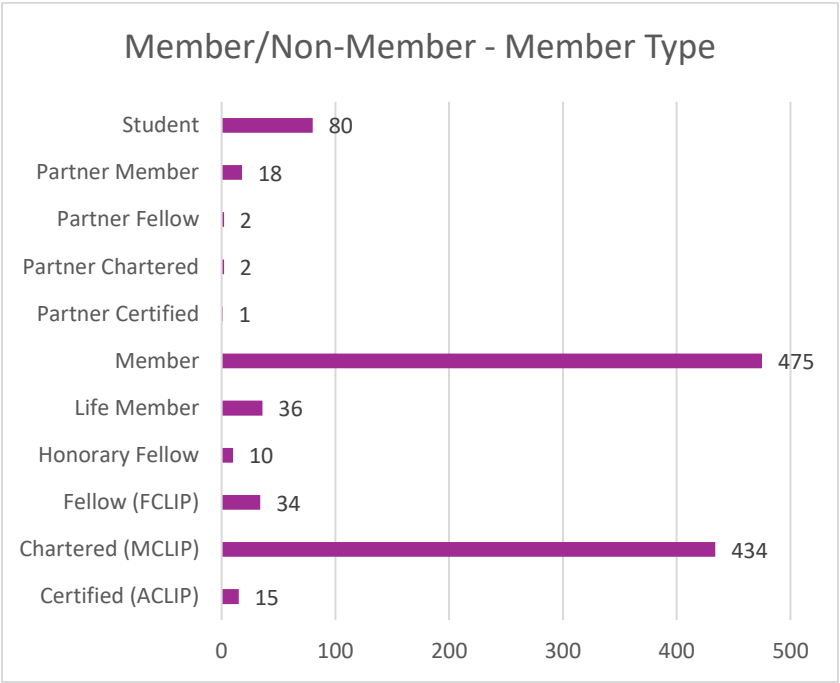


Figure 5: Membership by CILIP membership type

Awards

Prizes

Cyril Barnard Memorial Prize

We had 12 nominations for the prize, after the first round of voting we had a draw, and the second round again produced a draw. In consultation with the HLG Committee Co-Chairs, we decided to have a double winner, this seemed additionally appropriate as the 2022 prize had not been given due to Covid and the vacancy in the Awards committee post.

Winners: Sue Lacey Bryant and Meg Gorman

Bursaries

1. LILAC 2024 in Leeds
2. CILIP 2024 in Birmingham
3. HLG 2024 in London

Applicant numbers: 7 for LILAC, 5 for CILIP and 4 for HLG

Winners: Ana Williams (LILAC), Emma Stirland (CILIP), Lotty Summers (HLG)

The pieces they wrote for the Newsletter:

1. Ana Williams [Report on attendance at the LILAC Conference, Leeds Beckett University \(25-27 March 2024\) – Health Libraries Group](#)
2. Emma Stirland [Attending the #CILIPConf24 with a bursary from the Health Libraries Group – Health Libraries Group](#)

30 FEDIP-funded bursaries - 20 to HLG 2024 and 10 for CILIP 2024

Applicant numbers: 19

- We offered these via a prize draw and 19 people were awarded bursaries via this route.

- Remaining in-person places were allocated by CILIP to students from UCL, all of whom also work in the NHS. The remaining 'online' places were given by CILIP to students across Universities of Strathclyde and Sheffield.

A report written by one of the attendees funded by FEDIP: [My first HLG conference- Thank you FEDIP! – Health Libraries Group](#)

A huge thank-you to those who took part in the judging panels during 2024:

Lesley Allen (Co-Chair), Amanda Balam (Hon Secretary), Sophie Castle (CPD panel), David Law (Treasurer), Daniel Park (CPD panel), Ali Paul (Membership),

Thank you to all the committee members who took the time to vote for the winners of the Cyril Barnard Memorial Prize 2024.

Marketing and Promotion

In last year’s annual report, we noted the issues around the collection of statistics via the main platform for HLG which is called YM. Due to both the switch to Google Analytics 4 to collect statistics for YM and loss of statistics, the committee made the decision to collect statistics from the second HLG site which is hosted by WordPress. In last year’s report we were not able to produce a full set of results for the reporting year (1st February 2023 until 31st January 2024) from WordPress.

This year we have a full set of statistics for the reporting year 1st February 2024 until 31st January 2025.

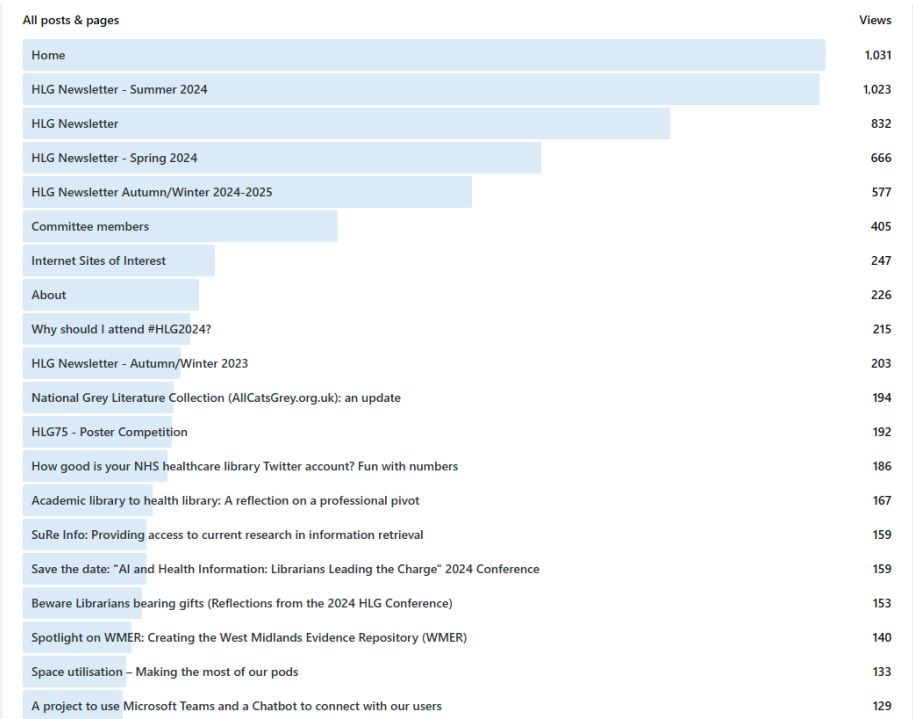


Figure 6: CILIP HLG WordPress statistics from 1st February 2024 until 31st January 2025.

The figure below shows the number of views and visitors to the WordPress site during the reporting period. The total number of views is 11.2K views, an increase of 100%. The total number of visitors is 4.3K which is an increase of 77%. Peaks of views are during the months May 2024, August 2024 and January 2025.

1 Feb 2024 - 31 Jan 2025

← → 1 Feb 2024 - 31 Jan 2025

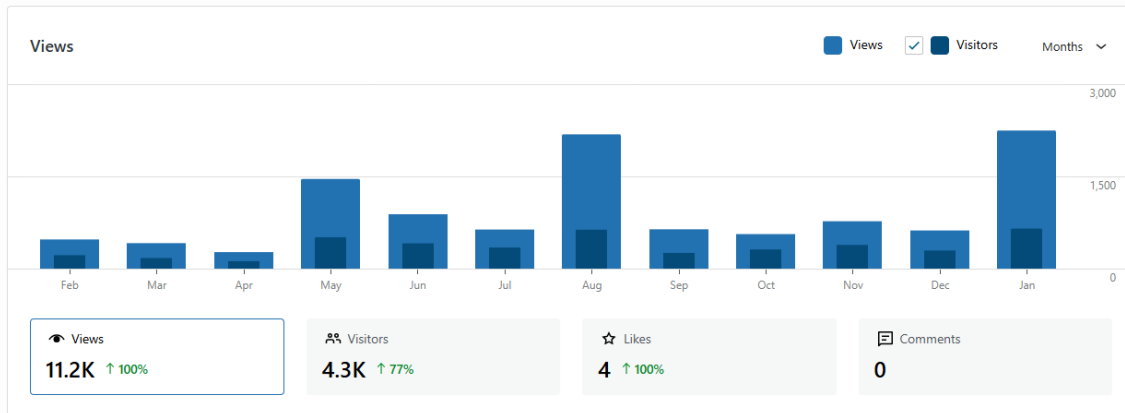


Figure 7: Statistics showing both views and visits to the HLG WordPress site from 1st February 2024 until 31st January 2025

The figure below shows the top 10 country locations of visitors to the site. As expected, the UK is in the number one position accounting for 8,858 views. Other countries not in the top 10 but recording visits to the website include North Macedonia (3 views), Ghana (3 views) Jamaica (2 views), New Zealand (1 view) and Namibia (1 view). This evidences the international reach of the work of HLG.

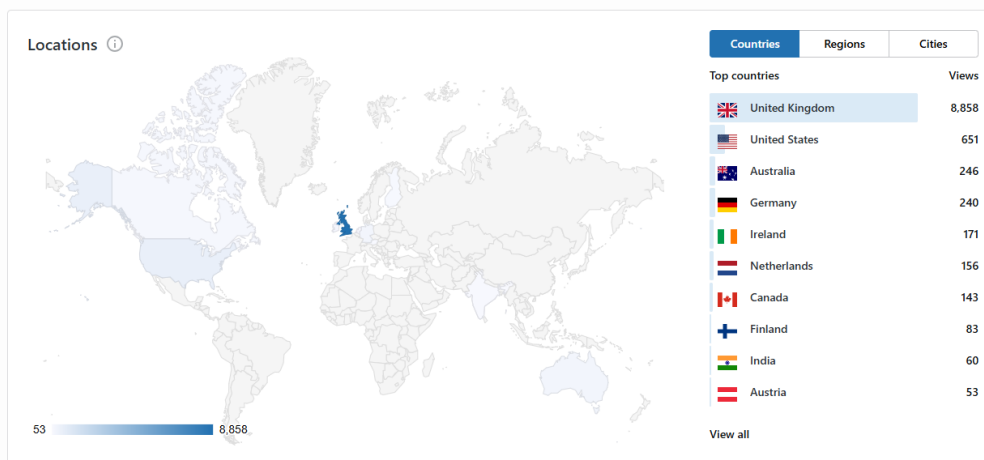


Figure 8: The top 10 country locations of visitors to the HLG WordPress site

The HLG Twitter/X account ([@ciliphlg](#)) lost a total of 86 followers. This is due to a lot of people leaving X. The total number of tweets and retweets could not be properly calculated. The number of posts are collected on a monthly basis.

HLG News continues to be circulated to all HLG members on a monthly basis. The news incorporates a number of stories including health related vacancies; academic news; health related marketing events and more. The bulletin also highlighted HILJ related content including the #HILJClub, 'Hot Topic Review' and the Virtual HILJ Club. In addition, health events such as Libraries Week, World Kidney Day and Nutrition and Hydration Week were promoted with the associated websites including links to free promotional material to support both digital and physical events within health libraries. News items from other CILIP special interest groups were also included.

Our [Instagram account](#) was launched in November 2023. Our posts have not increased since the last report and remains at 58 posts. Our followers have increased by 9 to 40 followers. Over the next year we will be posting more.

More videos have been added to the [HLG YouTube Channel](#) and the views up until March 2025 are shown below.

HLG video title	Number of Views – February 2025
HLG Conference Poster Design Session 2023	235
HLG and EARLL recruitment skills series:application skills 2023	103
These are the hands read by the CILIP HLG Committee	93
CILIP Members' Fest, Randomised coffee trials: the science of curating connections 16/10/2024	84
HLG 75 Celebration – session three 2022	82
HLG 75 Celebration – session one 2022	69
HLG Annual General Meeting 2020	64
HLG Conference Day 2 keynote Talk 2022	63
HLG Synthesising and Summarising session - Tuesday 28 November 2023	60

HLG video title	Number of Views – February 2025
HLG and EARLL recruitment skills series: interview skills 31 August 2023	60
Virtual HILJ 2021	59
HLG HEE Lunchtime lightning talks – 19 April 2023	58
Virtual HILJ June 2020	57
Video of the 2022 HLG AGM	49
HLG event: An overview of professional registration and revalidation	48
HLG 75 Celebration – session two 2022	47
Lunch and Learn: Wikipedia and evidence for health and care	45
HLG and A Million Decisions Lunch Time Lightning Talks 3 October 2023	45
HILJ 2018 Virtual Issue Video Abstract	35
HILJ 2017 Virtual Issue Video Abstract	33
HLG recruitment skills series: inclusive recruitment	33
HLG Shadowing Network	27
Sharon Stevens at the CILIP HLG 2021 AGM	23
Keynote speech HLG Virtual Learning Event Number 3 – January 2022	15
HLG Annual General Meeting 2021	11
HILJVI2016 abstract	2

Figure 9: Number of views on HLG YouTube Channel up to March 2025.

CPD Panel

Changes to the panel

Paul Cannon (University of Glasgow) joined the HLG CPD Panel in February 2024, alongside Hong-Anh Nguyen (The King's Fund) as Co-Chair for the Panel.

2024 also saw two new members join the Panel. Neena Shukla Morris (University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust) in June, followed by Katrina Hall (Royal College of Nursing now University of Cardiff) in July.

CPD panel activity

We hosted five learning and development events in 2024:

- **Wikipedia and evidence for health and care**
(Adam Harangozó, NIHR Coordinating Centre)
This session was organised as a pre-HLG conference session ahead of the workshops Adam ran over the two days at HLG24.
- **Carbon literacy for beginners: how bad are bananas?**
The carbon literacy training sessions were commissioned from Future We Want, a climate education consultancy, as a joint venture with the Sustainability Leads (Adam Tocock and Janine Hall).
- **Randomised coffee trials: the science of curating connections**
(Bali Moore, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust)
This webinar was run as part of a new initiative from CILIP. Members' Fest ran for the first time in October 2024 and all Special Interest Groups including HLG were asked to present activities to showcase their offer to everyone across CILIP.
- **Bishop and LeFanu lecture**
Maria Grant (Editor-in-Chief, Health Information and Libraries Journal)

As Maria couldn't be at this year's HLG Conference, we offered the Bishop and LeFanu lecture as free separate session in November.

- **An overview of professional registration and revalidation**

Claire Laybats (CILIP), Sophie Castle (Medway NHS Foundation Trust), Vicky Robertson (University College London), Victoria Treadway (NHS Horizons), and Gil Young (NHS England).

Over the course of this year, we have delivered learning and development to almost 200 people. The sessions have been watched 170 times via our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@ciliphealthlibrariesgroup9764>.

Feedback on 2024 activity

Responses to our feedback survey found that 83% of attendees rated our CPD events as *Excellent* or *Very Good*. Attendees gave a range of reasons why they found our CPD offer valuable:

Really interesting, right amount of content, well explained and well-chaired. It was good to have the separate Q&A to post questions.

Simple format taking a topic that appears 'familiar' but where this is much to learn.

Such a pertinent topic, well delivered by the expert.

The opportunity to hear a range of perspectives - people who support others through registration and experiences of those going through the process.

The large majority (76%) of attendees said that attending the event would result in a change to their practice:

I want to investigate Wikipedia more - understand if I can contribute to it.

I understand more about the rules of Wikipedia to maintain accuracy and balance, and how it's used by medical professionals and students - it will enable me to discuss with them how they use it and consider the pros and cons in an accurate way.

I will seriously look into chartership and have some awareness of how to go about it and what's involved.

HLG 2024

Overall feedback from the HLG Conference held 20-21 June 2024 at the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) London, was that it was brilliant with great keynotes and surprise guest! The venue next to The Regent's Park was ideal for the conference pizza party in the RCP medicinal garden with fabulous sunshine on tap.

107 delegates out of a total of 194 completed the post-conference survey receiving a CPD certificate upon completion. 82% attended in person, 16% online with 2% attending both in person and online. Demographic data shows that 26% of delegates were from the Midlands, 14% from the Southwest and 13% from London.

95% of delegates said the conference met their expectations and 98% would recommend it to colleagues.

All attendees received a link to the recorded presentations post-conference.

We will endeavour to meet these high standards for the next conference.

Upcoming activity

ICML 2026

A lot of background work was undertaken as we started to organise the 14th International Congress on Medical Librarianship brought to you by HLG and Partners. We were delighted to announce that the Congress will take place 14-16 July 2026 in Glasgow ahead of the Commonwealth Games.



Glasgow's official coat of arms and motto ('Let Glasgow flourish') has been the inspiration for our vision for ICML 2026. Our conference theme will be 'Flourish: growing our communities' with our intention that ICML 2026 will have a growth impact upon our international community and support attendees to flourish in their roles to lay the foundations of a legacy for the profession.

The full list of partners are: -

- CILIP's Health Libraries Group
- IFLA Health and Biosciences Section
- African Hospital Libraries
- University Health & Medical Librarians Group
- International Clinical Librarian Conference
- Consortium of Health and Independent Libraries in London
- Evidence Based Librarianship in Practice

EAHIL and HLG 2028

In October 2024 we heard that the bid to organise and host a joint EAHIL and HLG conference in Brighton in 2028 had been successful. An inaugural planning meeting will be scheduled for Summer 2025.

Future CPD events

At the time of writing, our member survey is still running. There are early indications of these themes being popular with members:

- AI and automation
- Summary and synthesis
- Marketing and promotion
- Information literacy
- User experience
- Project management

In addition, we are delighted that some panel members wish to help run our events, which will help spread the load for the Co-Chairs. Furthermore, three members would like to deliver CPD events on these themes:

- Presentation skills
- Teaching skills for librarians
- Coaching and mentoring for managers and supervisors
- Chartership mentee groups
- Running a journal club

International

Partnership Agreements

Currently, we have formal agreements in place with MLA (United States), CHLA (Canada), ALIA (Australia). As part of these agreements, each organisation's conferences and events are promoted by the partner organisation. A complimentary conference ticket for each organisation's main conference was offered to members of the HLG Committee and vice versa.

In 2024, we made an agreement in principle with the Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa (AHILA).

International Leadership Bursary

HLG's UK recipient for the Australian Library and Information Association Leadership Bursary was Susan Smith (Knowledge & Library Service Manager, Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust). The bursary included online mentorship meetings with members of Health Libraries Australia's committee. Susan wrote a report about the benefits of her bursary mentorship experience and the positive impact this has had on her own leadership role. This [report](#) was published in the HLG newsletter.

HLG- MLA Liaison

Tom Roper is HLG's representative with the Medical Library Association, in the U.S. and attended and provided HLG update reports for MLA's committee meetings. At each HLG committee meeting he provided an MLA update.

Tom spoke at a webinar organised by MLA's International Co-operation Caucus on 19 November, alongside a representative of the Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa (AHILA).

Policy

The focus of HLG's policy work is: *To promote the value and role of health librarians to policymakers and external organisations.*

The main policy activities of the Health Libraries Group are to respond to consultations on public policy and to contribute to CILIP's public policy activity.

During 2024, we contributed to discussions on NICE prioritisation processes, the NHS Education Funding Agreement in England, the NHS Constitution, the NHS Change consultation and the Unlocking eBooks Project.

NICE prioritisation process

HLG responded on behalf of CILIP to a consultation on proposed changes to the prioritisation process for guidelines and other resources produced by the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence](#) (NICE). Our concern was that if guidelines ceased to be updated nationally then this would create more pressure on local NHS knowledge and library services to update the guidance locally – and introduce inconsistencies in approach across the system.

NHS Education Funding Agreement in England consultation

The NHS [Education Funding Agreement](#) is the core mechanism through which national funds are transferred to local NHS Trusts for education and training of staff and learners, including funding for NHS knowledge and library services. Prior to the issuing of the 2024-27 agreement, NHS England held a consultation on the agreement. In the HLG response, we requested greater clarity on the expectation that funds should be used from the agreement to fund NHS knowledge and library services. The text in the new agreement is clearer on this point.

NHS Constitution

HLG responded to a consultation on the latest update to the NHS Constitution, emphasising the importance of rights to evidence-based information to inform decision making and the right of patients to health information informed by research evidence.

Change NHS consultation

We submitted a response to Change NHS, which is described by the UK government as “a national conversation to develop the 10 Year Health Plan”. The plan will set out how to deliver an NHS fit for the future, creating a truly modern health service designed to meet the changing needs of our changing population.

Unlocking eBooks Project consultation

HLG contributed to the [CILIP Unlocking eBooks project](#), funded by IFLA under their Knowledge Rights21 programme (KR21) to develop the case for better legislative provision for access to e-books and e-journals in public and academic libraries, and to put forward recommendations to relevant MPs and government departments.

Following participation in the consultation during 2024, a case study submitted by Neena Shukla Morris for HLG was included in the consultation report and Neena was invited to attend a Parliamentary Round Table in February 2025.

“NHS Libraries priced-out of eBooks

At University Hospitals Sussex, a key medical reference book essential for clinical decision-making was priced at £2,750 for a five-year eBook licence. This licence allowed access for a total of just 10 unique users over the entire five-year period, with no renewals and a seven-day loan limit per user. In contrast, the print version cost £429, and a Kindle edition was available for £445.96 for a single user. Unable to justify the restrictive eBook licence, the library purchased the four-volume print set, limiting access to a reference-only basis on-site. This restriction directly impacts medical students’ and clinicians’ access to the latest essential medical

knowledge, affecting their ability to make informed clinical decisions and, ultimately, compromising patient care.

NHS Knowledge and Library Services play a critical role in supporting clinical decision-making by providing rapid access to high-quality evidence. An independent economic evaluation showed that professionally staffed NHS knowledge services deliver a cost-benefit ratio of 1:2.4, rising to 1:3.85 where staff provide evidence searches and summaries — saving clinicians' time and improving healthcare outcomes.

For medical students and clinicians, eBooks are not a luxury — they are vital tools for delivering safe and effective patient care.”

If you would like to know more about our policy work or to become involved, please contact Ruth Carlyle on Ruth.Carlyle3@nhs.net or Neena Shukla Morris N.ShuklaMorris@bsms.ac.uk

Sustainability Report 2024

We would like to say thank you for the warm welcome we received by the committee.

Training

In conjunction with the CPD panel we arranged to have Carbon Literacy Training ('How Bad are Bananas?', delivered by Future We Want's Dr Emma Fieldhouse). There were 2 'Lunch 'n' Learn' sessions held online in September/October last year.

HLG Conference

We helped ensure that the conference was sustainable by asking suppliers about their sustainability credentials, pushing for less paper, and locating sustainable providers for HLG merchandise and sweets.

We also tried unsuccessfully to contact the CILIP Conference 2025 organisers to enquire about sustainability in the conference's programme, and in its production; and to make sustainability an "interest" that delegates could state in their registration forms.

Green Libraries Partnership

As members of the green libraries partnership board and representing NHS/health libraries, we were part of the steering group for [the Green Libraries Conference 2024](#) which took place in November, shared some of the best practice from the HLG conference, and helped to ensure that the conference had a broad range of content including speakers from, or adjacent-to, the NHS.

Other Activity

An 'HLG Update' is now included as a standing item in agendas for the quarterly online meetings of the *Sustainability in NHS Knowledge and Library Services Community of Practice* (and we update attendees on HLG sustainability happenings in the London

Searching and Training Forum's quarterly online meetings, in its standing agenda item for sustainability).

Plans for 2025-26

With our budget we hope to commission further training on carbon literacy and/or sustainability for HLG members.

Working with National Library of Scotland (NLS)/CILIP Scotland, and NHS colleagues, we hope to assist in the provision of Carbon Literacy training for health library staff specifically (either delivering it ourselves following “train the trainer” sessions from NLS/CILIP Scotland or helping colleagues to do the same).

Publications

Health Information and Libraries Journal (HILJ)

In 2024 HILJ welcomed Tracey Pratchett (Bolton NHS Foundation Trust) and Veronica Parisi (City St George's) as regular feature editors. In December 2024 Christine Urquhart advised that she plans to step down as Assistant Editor at the end of her three-year contract in June 2025. HLG and Wiley will be seeking to recruit a new Assistant Editor to fill this post in 2025. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris for the huge amount of work, dedication and talent that she has brought to the editorial team and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Also, in 2024 The *Health Information and Libraries Journal* began transitioning from the ScholarOne Manuscripts system to the ReX Review submission system. Acknowledging the improved interface, the editorial team is working closely with the Wiley Review team to implement this system.

HLG Newsletter

The team have published newsletter editions in Spring 2024, Summer 2024 and a combined Autumn and Winter edition.

Each of these editions has received generous contributions from a range of health library professionals from varied organisations, addressing subjects from conference reports to work on health literacy, the creation of an evidence repository to efforts to support staff wellbeing and connect with library users using digital tools. In addition, we are always grateful for the news and updates contributions and for those who share details of courses and events for inclusion.

To give an indication of viewing figures and trends in the past year, the following might be useful:

- The Spring issue had 543 views from 157 visitors on the day of publication (01/05/2024). In the two weeks from publishing, we received a total of 1235 views from 458 visitors.

- The Summer 2024 issue had 985 views from 244 visitors on the day of publication (13/08/2024). The two-week figures for this issue were 1941 views from 584 visitors.
- The Autumn/Winter 2024 edition received 611 views from 177 visitors on the day of publication (23/01/2025) and 2303 views from 812 visitors in the two weeks following publication.
- These figures include views and visits to the entire CILIP HLG WordPress site, so a small amount of this traffic is accounted for by visits to other pages.

Sadly, Keith Nockels penned his final 'Internet Sites of Interest' column for the autumn/winter edition – after nearly 20 years of contributions. It goes without saying that this is a loss. The same edition issued an initial call for any volunteers interested in providing a similar regular column to the newsletter. We will follow up on this further.

Plans for 2025

The HLG newsletter will again publish three editions, following a spring, summer and autumn/winter format. The next edition is scheduled for publication on the 7th of May 2025.

To follow up the digitisation of the HLG Nursing Bulletin, the newsletter team will begin to plan for the digitisation of the HLG Newsletter Archive – which dates from 1984 through to 2020. Calls for volunteers to assist with the digitisation will likely be included in an upcoming newsletter, as well as being circulated elsewhere.

Health Library & Information Services Directory (HLISD)

HLISD aims to be the most comprehensive database of its kind, listing health and care libraries from across the UK in one place. The information is updated by a network of editors responsible for checking the currency of their entries. HLISD is a partnership initiative, funded by NHS England Workforce, Training and Education Directorate, and the CILIP Health Libraries Group. In 2024, the HLISD board was chaired by NHS England.

User Survey and Feedback

In June 2024, HLISD launched a user survey at the HLG conference. This survey ran for the duration of the conference and then extended online over July to capture the thoughts of HLISD users. The survey received a good response, and feedback was very positive. Most users were happy with the functionality of the directory. Some emerging themes revealed an interest in using the directory to find library staff. This prompted HLISD to send out communications to encourage libraries to include individual contacts. There were also calls for HLISD to improve the search function, leading to a site refresh at the end of the year that implemented this and gave the site a more modern design.

Directory Statistics

By December 2024, the directory listed 518 libraries and 1719 contacts. The HLISD board and Artefacto are working to contact all libraries annually to update their records and ensure the directory remains as accurate and current as possible.

Shadowing Network

In 2024 HLISD worked with HLG's CPD panel to create a new network for any health library interested in offering shadowing opportunities to peers. The network facilitates connections across a wide range of library and knowledge services, helping members find libraries that offer opportunities such as library tours or visits (in-person or virtual), job shadowing, work experience or placements. develop skills outside their current job roles, compare service performance, and gain knowledge of other sectors. By December, the new network had been soft launched on the HLISD website, with accompanying information available on HLG's website. The site will be launched more formally in early 2025 with various activities organised to raise awareness and encourage libraries to join.

User Engagement with HLISD

The graphs below give an overview of user visits to the directory and the number of searches carried out on the site from December 2023 – November 2024. In Figure 10 below user engagement is measured by number of visits to the HLISD webpages. A "visit" is counted if a user spent 10 seconds or more on the website, viewed two or more pages on the site or carried out a conversion event (e.g. searched for a library or staff member). Figure 11 shows the total number of searches carried out for this time period.

Figure 12 gives a snapshot of most popular search terms entered into the search box on HLISD in the last three months of 2024. This shows that users tend to search by geographical location to find a library in a particular region. More information is needed to ascertain why particular regions are sought out at particular times like this.

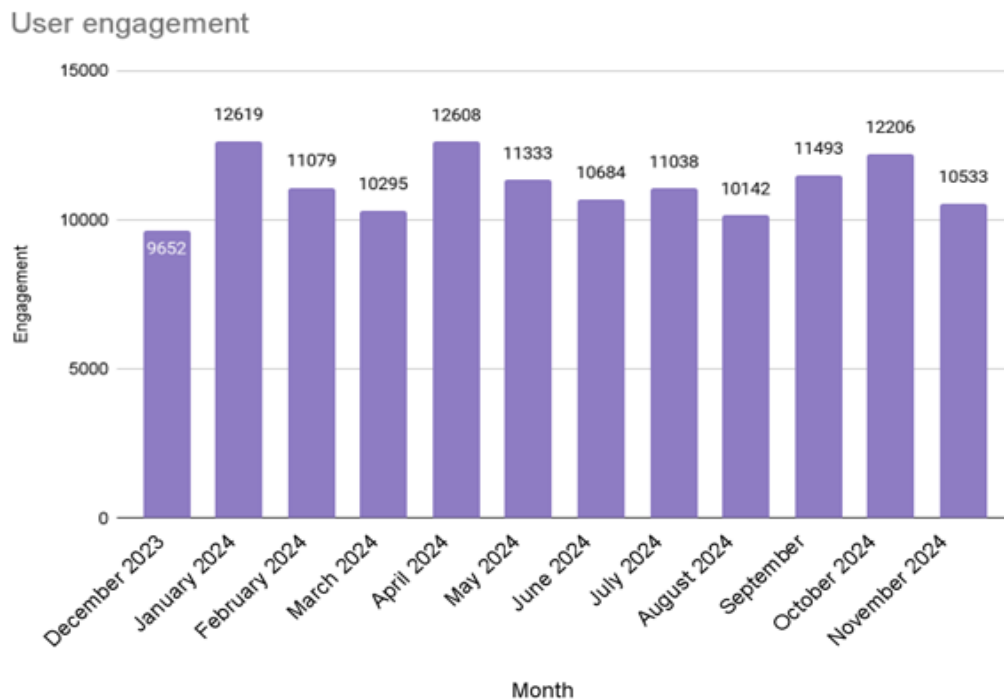


Figure 10: User engagement measure by site visits

Site searches per month

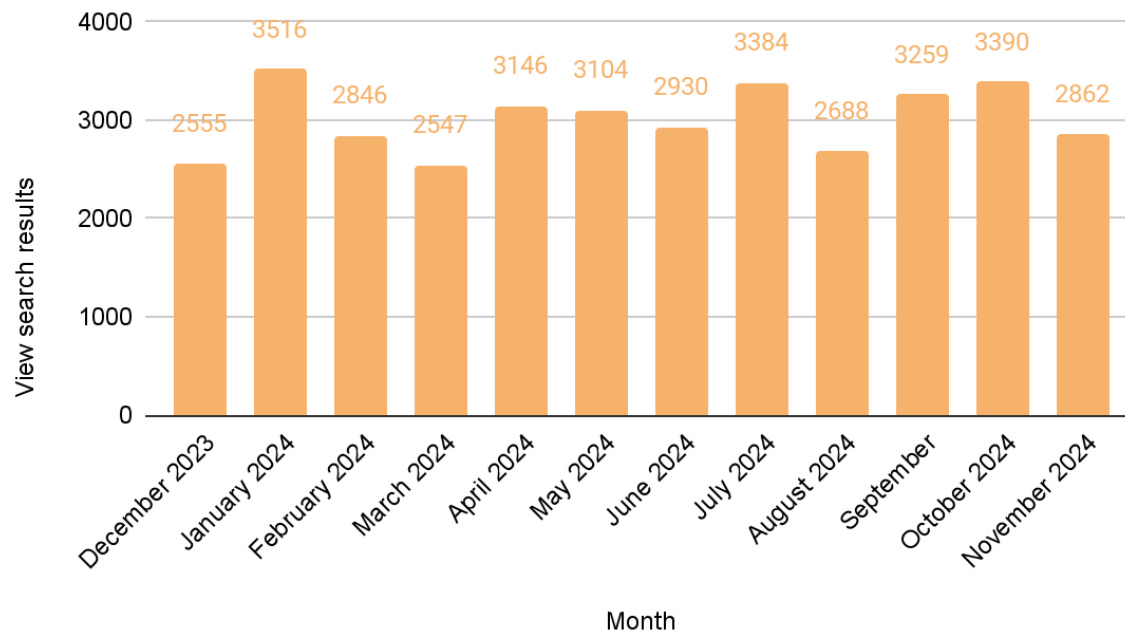


Figure 11: Number of searches carried out on HLISD per month

Top search terms (1 September 2024 - 30 November 2024)

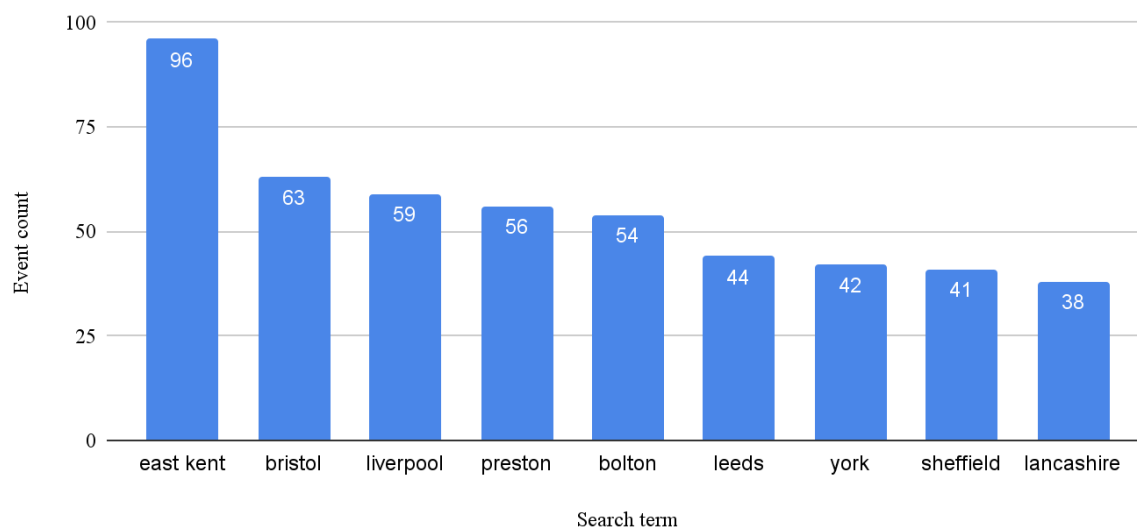


Figure 12: Popular search terms for the last quarter of 2024.

Core Collections

In 2024, the committee continued to advertise for the role of Core Collections lead. We are extremely grateful to our current lead Preeti Puligari who continues to keep the group moving forward.

The core collections group are currently working on updating the dental collection and the mental health collections. Anyone with an interest in contributing to the development of any of the core collections should contact Preeti Puligari for further information.

preeti.puligari1@nhs.net

The Core Collection Working group are:

- Preeti Puligari
- Dawn Williams
- Nicola Ager
- Stacey Richards

With thanks to other contributors:

- Caroline Lynch
- Phil O' Reilly
- Sian Wyre
- Renata M. Roscelli
- Daniel R. Whittaker
- Mihaela Paraschiv

Sub-Saharan African Hospitals Core Collection

HLG's Co-Chair, Lynsey Hawker, has continued in leading in HLG's involvement as supportive partner in this project and organises and attends the project group meetings alongside Claire Blacklock, project lead. At one such meeting in 2024 Preeti Puligari supplied detailed guidance to the project team, about core collection development, based on her extensive experience in leading on the Medical and Nursing & Midwifery core collection projects. The working group meets on a regular basis to discuss progress and issues arising. The project will be ongoing into 2025.

HLG and African Hospital Libraries would like to take this opportunity to thank our

working group members:

- Claire Blacklock
- Blessing Mawire
- Emma Farrow
- Maria Musoke
- Rhys Whelan
- Nancy Tavarwisa
- Helene Gorrington
- Sarah-Jane Raymond
- Semanti Chakraborty
- Sheik Umar Sesay
- Shuayb Mohamed

Treasurer's Report 2024

Health Libraries Group			
Income - 2024	£	Expenditure - 2024	£
CILIP	£ 2000.00	Bursaries (CILIP, LILAC)	£ 1,388
HILJ Royalties	£ 20,354.00	HLG Conference	£ 3776.17
Bank Charge Re-Charge	£ 50.00	Marketing	£ 3,906.00
Unity Trust Bank Goodwill Payment	£ 150.00	HLISD	£ 3,762.00
Royal College of Surgeons Re-imbursment	£ 474.00	Bank Charge	£ 50.00
		Software	£ 1,052.54
		Prizes	£ 71.26
		Travel	£ 42.40
		Postal	£ 5.99
		CPD	£ 600.00
		Royal College of Surgeons	£ 474.00
Totals	£ 23,028.40		£ 15,128.36
Profit on current account	£ 7,900.04		
Deposit account (as of 31/12/2024)	£ 23,263.24		
Opening current account balance as of 1st January 2024	£ 48,610.44		
Closing Balance as of 31st December 2024	£ 56,510.48		

Figure 13: HLG income and expenditure 2024

Income

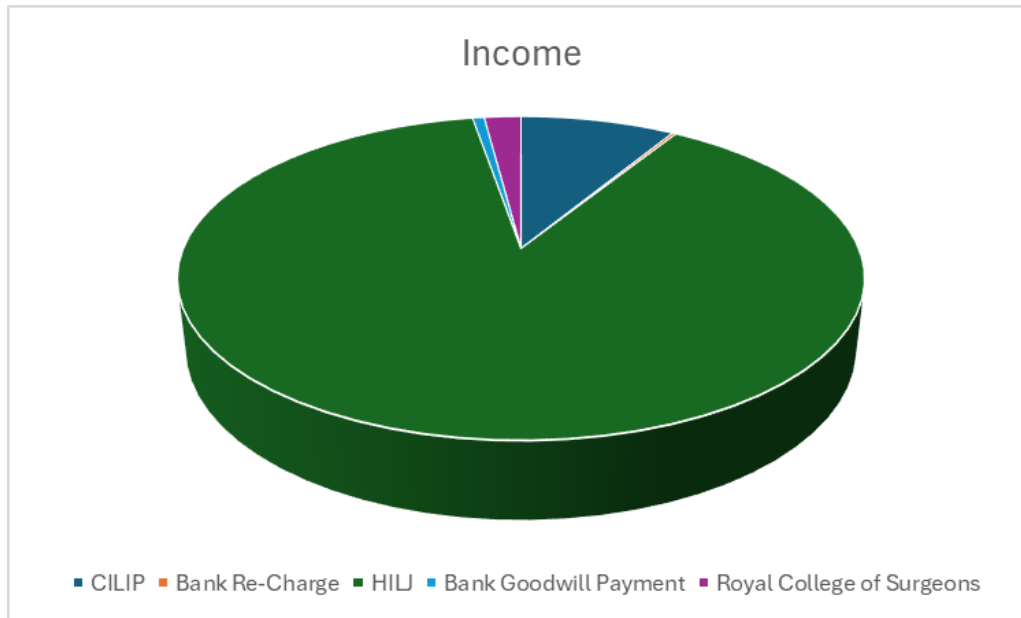


Figure 14: Sources of income for HLG 2024

The largest income stream continues to be generated via royalty fees linked to the group's Health Information Library Journal. There was a modest increase in 2024 (£20,354) compared to 2023 (£20,110.80). This provides the foundations for enabling the group to provide its biennial conference. The allocation of funds by CILIP is provided to regional member networks and special interest groups such as HLG. This increased from £1,500 in 2023 to £2,000 in 2024.

The saga regarding the application for a Unity Trust Bank multipay card has been documented in committee minutes (September 2024, December 2024). Although the application was refused, Unity Trust Bank transferred a goodwill payment (£150) to the HLG Current Account due to administrative errors.

Expenditure

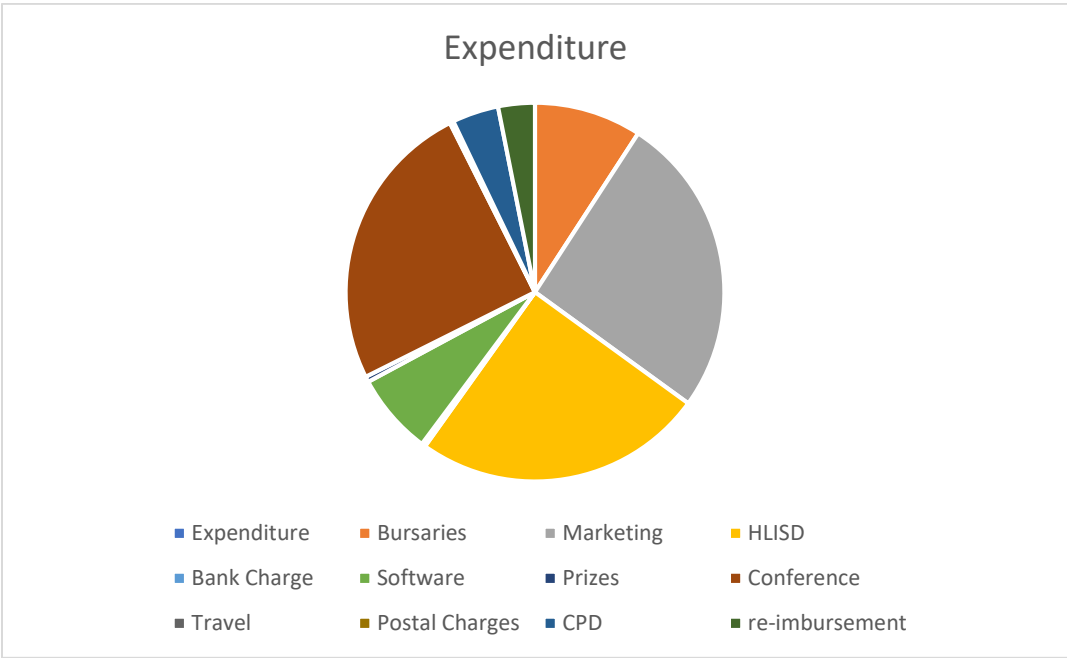


Figure 15: HLG expenditure 2024

Expenditure increased in 2024, largely because of costs linked to the 2024 Health Libraries Group Conference held in July at the Royal College of Physicians in London. Costs relating to the conference were for travel and accommodation for bursary awardees from the previously cancelled conference and the HLG committee.

Marketing and promotional materials, although purchased for the conference are accounted for separately. The major expenditure was for sustainable, reusable coffee cups which were available for delegates.

The other significant expenditure related to the annual hosting and maintenance fees for the Health Library & Information Services Directory (HLISD). The cost in 2024 was £3,762 and there were no additional charges for the updates.

NB: An invoice from the conference organisers totalling £6,144 will be accounted for in 2025.