

HLG

Health Libraries
Group

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

WELCOME

Through 2021 HLG has seen many changes and continues to adapt to external pressures. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our colleagues for their hard work and continued dedication working in a voluntary capacity to support member's needs. In the past 12 months we have welcomed Samantha Gavaghan into the role of Honorary Secretary and sadly said goodbye to Doug Knock, Joel Kerry, Richard Bridgen and Hélène Goring who have each stepped back from the committee this year. We thank each of them for their contributions to HLG and recognise the impact they have had on shaping the work of HLG during their terms serving on the HLG Committee; for some in a variety of roles.

Following the cancellation of our 2020 conference, we moved online in 2021 to deliver three free study days in September, November and February 2022. Each of these were well attended, welcoming colleagues from across the UK and beyond. We also organised a successful round of randomised coffee trials that enabled HLG members to connect with each other at a time when many were still working remotely due to the pandemic.

Continuing the theme of working remotely we were very pleased to be able to welcome our leadership bursary winner from the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) this year. Angela was able to attend a programme of training and mentoring sessions with colleagues here in the UK via Zoom. We have also been able to collaborate with other library colleagues strengthening our relationships with the Canadian Health Libraries Association and the Medical Library Association in the U.S and with the Library and Information Research Group (LIRG) and Consortium of Health Independent Libraries in London (CHILL) here in the UK.

We have seen our digitisation project move forward with a team of volunteers getting involved to help get the archives of our long running publications HLG Nursing Bulletin and HLG Newsletter accessible for all online. As we look towards our 75th anniversary we are keen to keep supporting the needs of everyone in the health and social care knowledge, library and information community. If you have any comments or ideas on how we can do this better or if you would like to get more involved in HLG activities please do get in touch and let us know.



Imrana Ghumra and Lynsey Hawker

HLG CO-CHAIRS

COMMITTEE

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.

2021 Committee

The HLG Committee is made up of volunteers:

Co-Chairs: Imrana Ghumra and Lynsey Hawker
Honorary Secretary: Samantha Gavaghan
Membership Secretary: Alison Paul
Honorary Treasurer: Emma Ramstead
Core Collections Lead: Preeti Puligari
Joint HLG CPD Leads: Lesley Allen and Joel Kerry
Marketing and Communications Lead: Potenza Atiogbe
Policy Lead: Ruth Carlyle
International Lead: Yasmin Noorani
HLG Newsletter Editor: Joel Kerry
Deputy HLG Newsletter Editor: Rachel Gledhill
HLG Awards Coordinator: Doug Knock
Conference Director: Richard Bridgen
HLG Nursing Lead: Phillip Barlow
HILJ Editor: Maria Grant
Events Coordinator: Hélène Gorrington
Committee member: Sarah Hennessy

2021 Marketing and Communications Team

Hélène Gorrington (Events Planner), Phillip Barlow (Publicity Material Lead), Deborah Owen (Digital Marketing Lead), Alison Day (HLG 'A Million Decisions' Lead), David Law (Health Library & Information Services Directory), Lesley Allen (Proof-reader and content provider for HLG News) and Alex McIlroy (HLG News proof-reader and Social Link Lead).

2021 CPD Panel Members

Lesley Allen, Joel Kerry, Potenza Atiogbe, Victoria Robertson, Phillip Barlow, Emma Ramstead, Alison Horner-Le-Riche, and Kerry Booth.

MEMBERSHIP

2021 Membership

Membership has fluctuated during the year as members can join at any time. At its peak it was 1201 and at the end of the financial year HLG had 1157 members.

AWARDS

2021 Awards and Bursaries

Although no awards or bursaries were presented this year, we look forward to reinstating these in 2022 and invite expressions of interest for our Awards and Bursaries Lead.

Please see the International Section for details of the International Bursary for 2021.

Further information about the awards and bursaries offered by HLG can be found on the HLG webpages:

www.cilip.org.uk/hlg

HLG NEWSLETTER

2021 HLG Newsletter

The HLG Newsletter continued to be published in electronic format and is made available through the WordPress website:

<https://ciliphlg.com/hlg-newsletter/>

Emails are sent out quarterly to HLG members, LIS-Medical list members and health library regional networks to call for content and notify readers of new issues.

There were 2 issues of the newsletter in 2021. HLG received 10 articles reporting on good practice and experience, event reports from LILAC Festival and International Clinical Librarians Conference Lite, and shared announcements and vacancies from HLG. Internet Sites of Interest, a column that brings together the top resources on specific topics, covered : long Covid and decolonisation.

All of these items were kindly written by our columnists, HLG members and wider CILIP members.

Issue	Page Views
Spring 2021	817
Winter 2021	629

Work is ongoing to create an online repository of past HLG Newsletters.

HLISD

2021 Health Library & Information Services Directory (HLISD) www.hlisd.org

Statistics

Usage of the Health Library and Information Services Directory (HLISD) rebounded strongly in 2021 from the declines caused by Covid in 2020. Monthly average usage increased to 15,000 views with a peak 18,000 recorded in October and November 2021. The number of records remained fairly consistent with 642 libraries and health information points listed on the directory as of the 11th January 2022. The number of contacts in the database was 1,297. A monthly data cleanse is undertaken to ensure unassigned / orphan contacts are removed from the database to comply with GDPR regulations.

Month	Number of website hits
October 2021	18,685
November 2021	18,360
December 2021	12,907

Local Editors

There are 510 local editors for the libraries listed on the directory, which illustrates the number who are responsible for two or more entries. The local editors are able to amend details on records with the exception of permanently deleting a contact / staff member. This can only be undertaken by a regional editor or the National Service Manager.

2021 HLISD continued:

2021 Developments

There have been a number of important improvements to the directory in 2021:

- Improvements to the search algorithm enabling more accurate searching of the database via the web interface. *Following user feedback it had been noted that when searching a number of irrelevant records would be displayed. For example when searching for Countess of Chester Hospital records for Manchester would also be retrieved. The algorithm was amended to remove these anomalies.*
- Launch of the HLISD API whereby developers can integrate certain HLISD content (library and information service information) into other websites. *This software embeds the library information into the parent website thus removing the need for separate directories to be created. At present a handful of developers have signed up for the API and it has been successfully deployed in the NHS North West libraries system.*
- Additional field to detail service level agreement (SLA) details between organisations. *As a number of organisations provide library and knowledge services via a service level agreement a field has been created to identify the organisation providing the service.*
- Facility for editors to regularly record a review of the entry record, even if no change is made. *A problem within the directory was ascertaining whether a record had been reviewed when no changes were required. Artefacto have created a verification check that editors can use when a review has been undertaken.*
- Redesigned support page. *The web support page has been redesigned to provide information on obtaining access to the API and a list of current regional editors.*
- Review of network database. *The network database has been reviewed to update or remove records that are no longer in use.*

National Service Manager Review

The HLISD continues to be an important tool in sourcing directory information for the health information and library community. Usage has rebounded strongly following service suspensions due to Covid with in excess of 18,000 hits being recorded monthly. The number of entries remains strong, however the HLISD Board decision to remove Republic of Ireland entries was yet to be actioned at the time of writing the report. A number of important developments have taken place including the completion of an API thus allowing library information on the directory to be incorporated into new and existing systems. A small number of developers have already applied for usage of the API. System developments within Health Education England has seen the directory used as the primary directory tool this reducing staff time in updating. Further improvements to the editor system has created new fields for where a SLA is in place and a function that enables editors to indicate that a record has been reviewed without the need for changes. The various integral databases (regions, networks) have been updated to reflect new structures. The web interface has also been improved with a new support page and additional changes are planned in 2022.

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

2021 Marketing and Promotion

Website statistics from 1st February 2021 until 31st January 2022 show that the newsletter archive page constitutes approximately 5% of the overall traffic on the website. The current newsletter started to be publishes on the new WordPress platform from August 2020.

HILH accounted for 8% of the overall traffic to the group's website. The HLG Nursing Bulletin accounted for 6% of the overall traffic to the HLG website.

The awards and bursaries pages accounted for 2% of the overall traffic to the group's website.

The HLG Twitter account ([@ciliphlg](#)) gained a total of 75 new followers. The total number of tweets and retweets was 189.

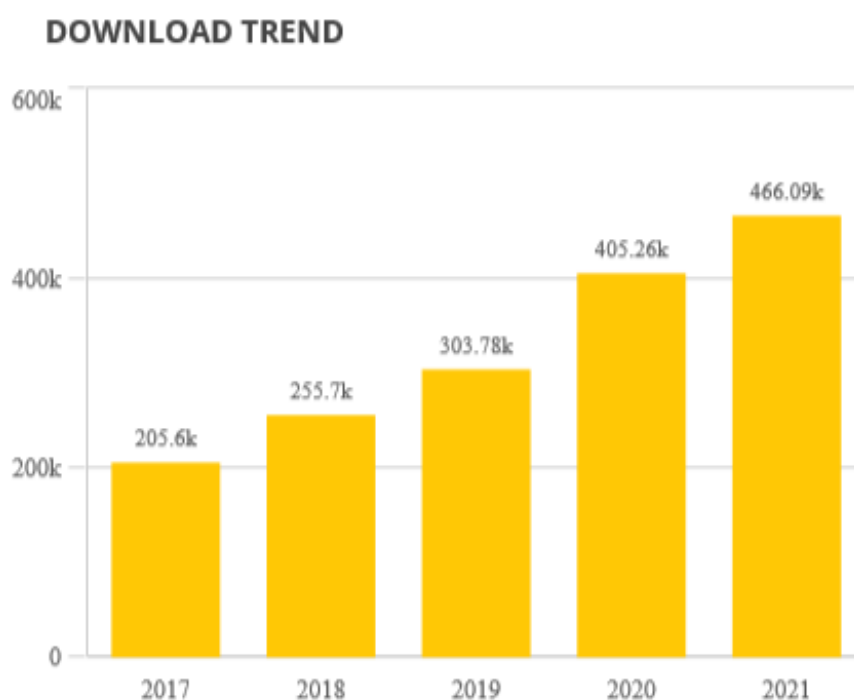
The group has a strong presence on both #ukmedlibs and #uklibchat monthly Twitter chats, by ensuring at least one committee member is present and actively participating.

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 '*Hot Topic Review*' and the *Virtual HILJ Club*. In addition health events such as *Health Information Week* and *World Sickle Cell Day* were promoted with the associated websites with links to free promotional material to support both digital and physical events within health libraries.

HLG News moved from being circulated using the Informz platform to the Dotdigital platform in August 2021.

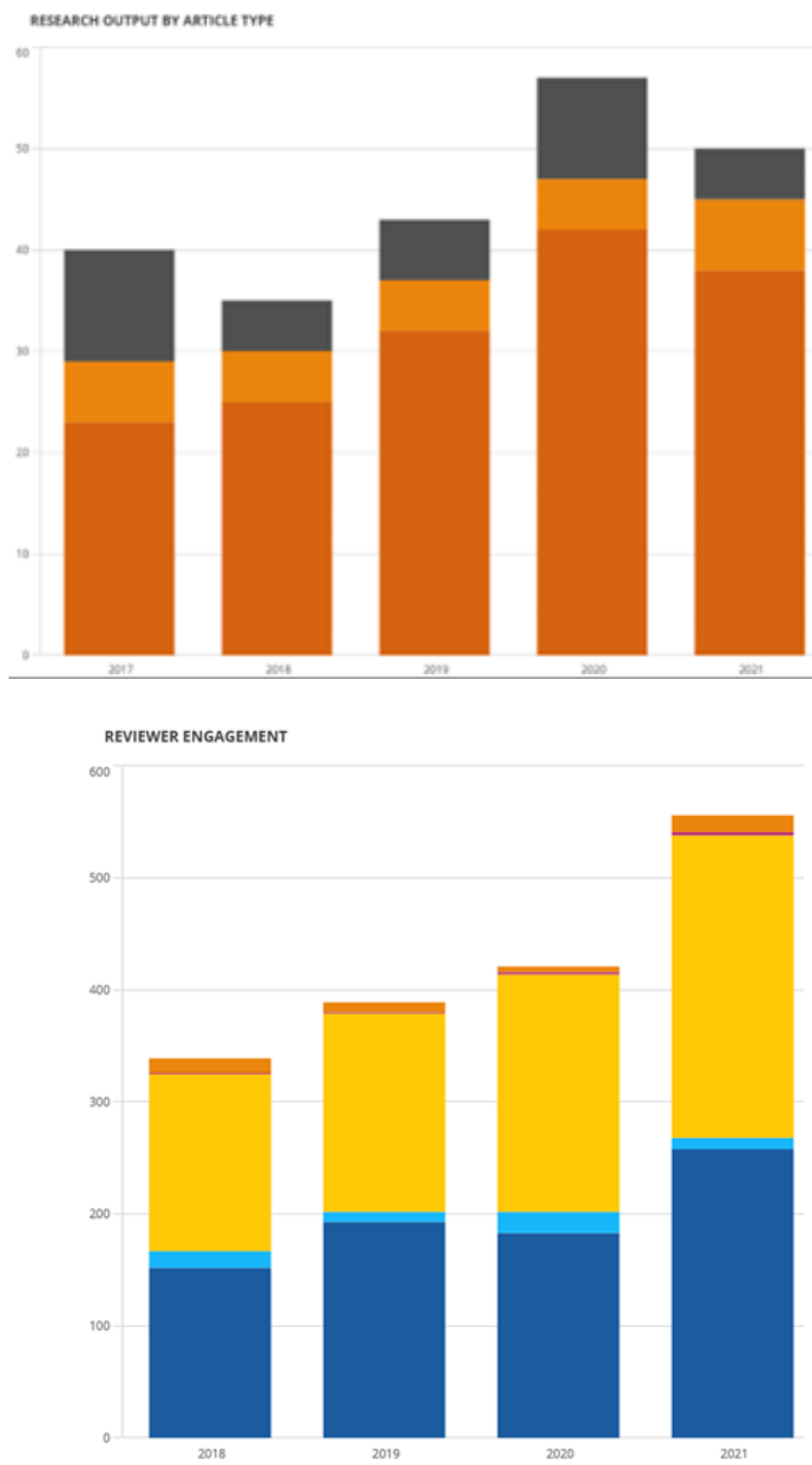
2021 Health Information and Libraries Journal

Downloads of Health Information and Libraries Journal manuscripts have continued to increase at pace in 2021, more than doubling in the past five-year period, demonstrating the ongoing relevance of the journal's content to practitioners and researchers.



Accounting for the peak submissions and publication of manuscripts during the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, in line with publishing patterns across the sector, submissions and publications have returned to a more usual but continued upward trend in 2021.

2021 Health Information and Libraries Journal continued:



As the number of manuscripts received increases so does the need for high quality peer review. In 2021 the number of invitations to review on behalf of the Health Information and Libraries Journal numbered 566, though less than half of this number lead to the submission of a completed review. Anyone interested in reviewing on behalf of the Health Information and Libraries Journal can register their areas of interest at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/hilj>

CORE COLLECTIONS

2021 Core Collections

The Medical Core Collection was updated in November 2021. The 7th edition is now available online. You can view it at <https://corecollection.co.uk/> As we were expecting more books to be published in 2021/2022, print copy is not available for the moment. When sufficient updates have been added in 2022, health library staff can purchase a print copy at a nominal rate from Tomlinson. Contact Tomlinson with your request at books@tomlinsons.net

This 7th edition has been fully updated by the Medical Core Collection Working Group based on the contributions of health librarians in the NHS, Higher Education and special libraries as well as health practitioners working in this field. The Core Working Group thank all contributors for their involvement, making it a truly collaborative publication.

The final LibraryThing version of the Core Collection which includes contributors' comments can be viewed online here <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/HLGCCM>

Currently a small working group is working on updating the Nursing and Midwifery core collection. The last update was published in 2016. The aim is to release the 6th edition later in 2022. Librarians from Royal Colleges of Nursing and Midwives are part of this project, providing specialist input. If you are keen to get involved in updating the Core Collections, please email Preeti.puligari1@nhs.net

CPD PANEL

2021 CPD Panel

Last year continued to provide challenges in terms of how we could hold CPD events for members who were still under enormous pressure in their workplaces. Therefore things were still largely on hold as we continued to adapt to changing circumstances.

We held a very successful Randomised Coffee Trial to which almost 100 people signed up. Feedback was very positive with people appreciating being able to network with people outside their own organisation.

Sadly Joel Kerry, our Co-Chair, had to step down from the role due to work pressures but we are immensely grateful for the enthusiasm he brought to the role. We hope to appoint soon to the vacancy.

We began work with another CILIP Special Interest Group, the Library and Information Research Group (LIRG) on a series of workshops looking at the stages of carrying out workplace research to be scheduled for 2022. It's always great to meet with colleagues from other sectors to put on events.

We are also working with other committee members on a programme of events to celebrate HLG's 75th Anniversary in 2022.

HLG NURSING

2021 HLG Nursing

The primary focus for HLG Nursing in 2021 was the establishment of the overall digitisation project, to create and make available online archives of both HLG Nursing Bulletin's predecessor publications and HLG Newsletter. The first part of the project has focused on the formerly print only NIS / LfN Bulletin that has previously been digitised. To move the project on, a project team, led by Philip Barlow and Rachel Gledhill was established. A group of volunteers was recruited to undertake the main work of the project - converting the existing files, which are whole issues, into individual articles, which can then be added and formatted to HLG's WordPress site to be made available for free access. Part of the project required obtaining copies of very early material held by the British Library, although gaps remain in the archive that are being investigated. We aim to complete this first section of the project by HLG's 75th Anniversary in October 2022.

Difficulty obtaining material led to just a single issue of HLG Nursing Bulletin being published in 2021. This contained articles related to the withdrawal and replacement of a legacy Library Management System during the pandemic, the response of nursing students to virtual teaching and the experience of a library professional's first steps into delivering teaching. Although HLG Nursing Bulletin is in the process of being included as part of the digitisation project, it remains a member only publication for 12 months on the CILIP website.

The HLG Nursing Twitter account ([@lib4nurs](https://twitter.com/lib4nurs)) sent out 31 tweets during 2021 and gained a total of 31 new followers.

INTERNATIONAL

2021 International Update

HLG's reciprocal Leadership bursary with the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) was awarded to an Australian recipient in 2021 and a programme of online training events and mentorship meetings with members of the HLG Committee was successfully delivered. The bursary was promoted several times in the UK but the response was low, so there wasn't a UK recipient on this occasion.



Negotiations to have collaborative agreements with two new partners are almost complete. The new partners are the [Canadian Health Libraries Association](#) and the [Medical Library Association](#) in the U.S.



POLICY

2021 Policy Update

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. This includes a role within the CILIP Policy Committee.

In 2021, the Health Libraries Group as part of the Health and Social Care Knowledge Exchange developed a policy statement on eBooks and the need for affordable publishing models for libraries to access

<https://library.hee.nhs.uk/resources/content-and-usage/ebooks/ebook-call-for-action>.

The Health Libraries Group contributed to a new policy development framework for CILIP, based on CILIP's ethical framework.

HLG responded to a consultation on shared decision-making as part of the development of the NICE shared decision-making guidelines. This will have been one of the contributory responses that led to changes in the guidelines, indicating that patient information materials should be based on current evidence and that training for shared decision-making conversations should include health literacy techniques.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/about/what-we-do/our-programmes/nice-guidance/nice-guidelines/shared-decision-making>

At a point of change within local structures in the NHS, the policy function within the Health Libraries Group advised the committee on the implications of the Health and Care Bill 2021 and the Health and Social Care Plan 2021.

If you would like to know more about our policy work or to become involved, please contact Ruth Carlyle on Ruth.Carlyle@hee.nhs.uk

CONFERENCE

2021 Conference

As with so many other things our 2020 conference was postponed and eventually cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic. Instead, in 2021 we opted to move online organising three free virtual learning days to replace our missed face-to-face event. Speakers that had been lined up for the 2020 conference were invited to present at these online events.

The first of these three events was held in September 2021. Our keynote speaker Nick Poole, CEO of CILIP opened the day and a packed programme included presentations on patient information, running library book groups and search techniques.

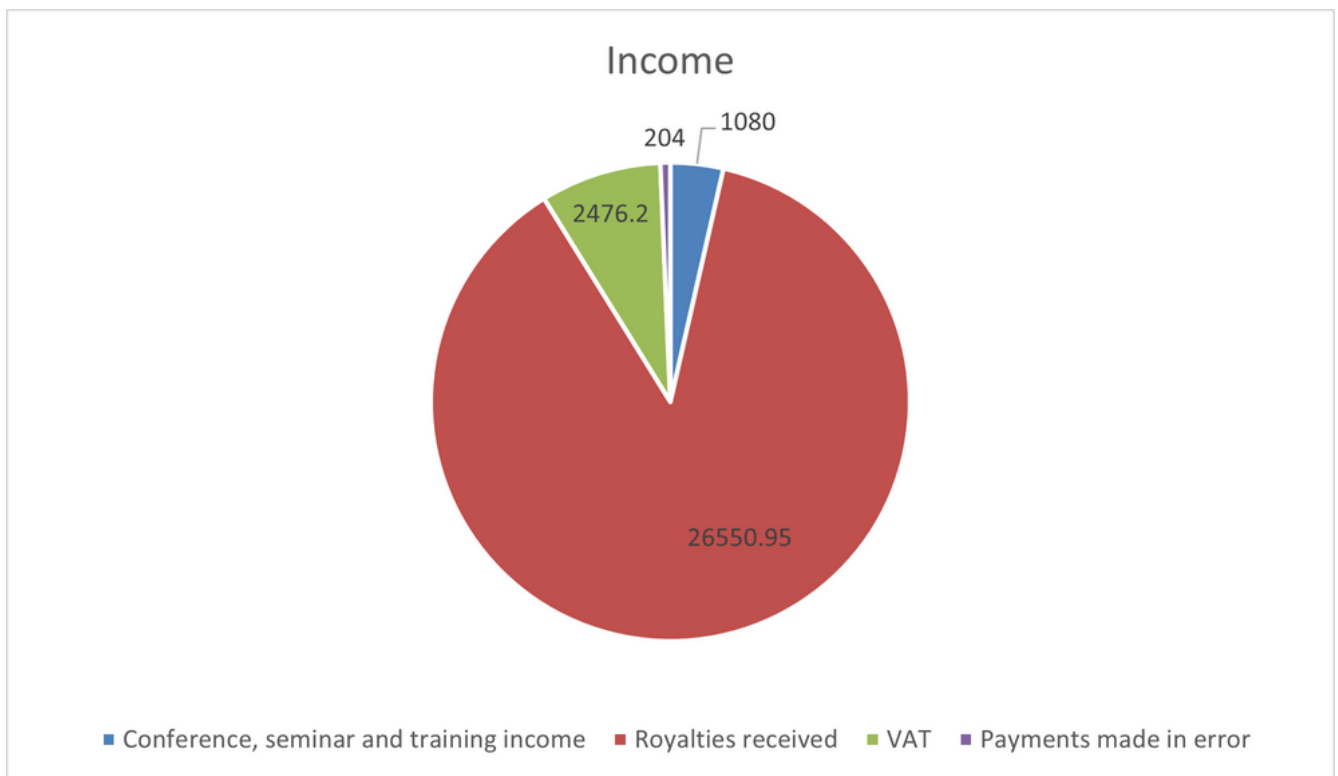
The second event took place in November. This event focused on technology in health libraries and opened with guest speaker Andrew Knox presenting on his recent research report [*The impact of AI, machine learning, automation and robotics on the information profession*](#). The day also included a presentation from colleagues working in Queensland Australia, something that may not have been possible were it not for our virtual format.

The final session took place in February 2022 and attendees were treated to some dance therapy during this year's Bishop and Le Fanu memorial lecture from dance and movement psychotherapist Mary Coaten.

All our online events were well attended and feedback from delegates has been positive. The success of these events in 2021 has enabled us to begin planning for a hybrid anniversary event to mark our 75th anniversary in October 2022.

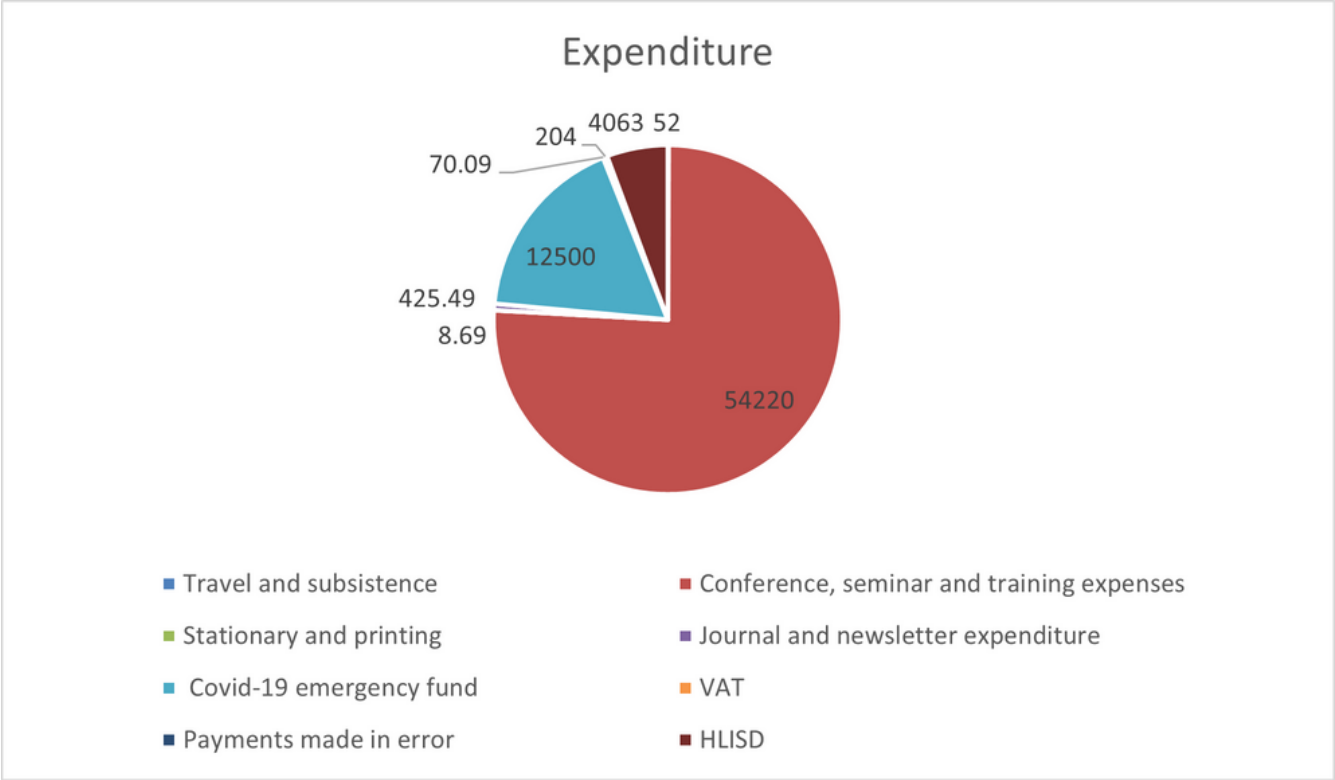
FINANCES

Income



Most of our income was derived from our royalties and the VAT.

Expenditure



Most of our expenditure in 2021 was spent on refunding sponsors and delegates their money from our cancelled conference. We then went on to hold virtual sessions later on in the year, with minimal cost. We lent money to CILIP, during COVID-19 and we continue to pay to host HLISD along with Health Education England.

Are you getting the most from your HLG membership?

Top 10 ways to make the most of your HLG membership

- Join the HLG-members email discussion list (www.jiscmail.ac.uk)
- Submit an article for our [newsletter](#)
- Have free online access to our journal (HILJ) and reduced rate for a print subscription and consider submitting a paper
- Sign up to one of our free training events
- Attend a committee meeting as an observer, and if you like what you see, join the HLG Committee
- Follow up on Twitter @ciliphlg
- Apply for one of our bursaries to attend an event in the UK or overseas
- Tell us what more we can do to support you in your role
- Find out more about any of the above by visiting the [website](#) on a regular basis

Membership enables HLG to support and deliver resources which are freely accessible to all our health library colleagues. These products include the popular and well used [Health Library and Information Services Directory \(HLISD\)](#) and the Core Content series which provides a useful set of acquisition tools for health librarians.

Find out more at www.cilip.org.uk/hlg.

