

LIHNNNK UP

by Health Libraries, For Health Libraries **ISSUE 22 SUMMER 2006**

Like a rock?

Following on from the analogy of a river in springtime in the previous issue, I have tried to search for a rock of stability within the river that is the ever changing working environment of Health Libraries and the NHS. The more I search for this rock, the more disconcerted I have become.

Where in the ever faster flowing river are the boulders and bedrocks of stability? They seem to be being carried away by the torrent of change and before I could blink we had lost some big boulders, and some of the more steady stepping stones are teetering on the brink. The course of the river will be reviewed in **Predicting the future**.

Partnerships and collaboration were the subject matter of the Allis Conference attended by **Kay Bankier** in May. Delegates included representatives from HE, FE and public libraries. Carnival fun is the title of **Dawn McGowan's** report on Mersey Care NHS Trust's annual promotional event encouraging lifelong learning. **Margaret Halstead** takes a plunge and finds that the water was not as cold as it looks in relation to beginning Critical appraisal training in North Cumbria.


Getting to grips with KSF is enough to give anyone a headache and an urge to engage in unsolicited violence and hours of hair tearing. So if you are of a nervous disposition then you may want to dwell on the photographs accompanying the article submitted by **Mary Hill, Paula Elliot, and John Addison**.

I personally use my KSF manual to wedge open a fire door! Any other suggestions of what to do with them would be greatly appreciated by the editors.

Our new starters this issue are **Sarah Owen** from Wroughtington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust. Sarah has spent two years in "Gamecocks" country, South Carolina before heading back to sunny and humid Wigan. **Catherine Deering** is the new Assistant Librarian at the NPCRDC in Manchester.

Lisa Anderson, Eileen Hume, and Francis Dowse have submitted an early report from the Health Libraries Group bi-annual conference held at the Winter Gardens, Eastbourne. There are also some photographs featuring Eastbourne and various Northwest delegates seen skulking around the south coast over the three days.

Rini Banerjee and **Colette King** report on an organisational development and training fair at Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospital. **Chris Thornton** has submitted a letter to the editor about counting literature searches.

Rachel Gick armed with knowledge from the medical terminology course can now understand terms and concepts such as "neurotic" and identify parts of the body. Feedback from the medical terminology course was very positive and I hope this is repeated on a regular basis. **Rachel** also provides a follow up report to the HLG study day "Everyone Counts" featured in the Spring Issue. 

Steve Glover

IN THIS ISSUE

Allis Conference 16th May 2006

Kay Bankier
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

2

Carnival Fun!

*Dawn McGowan, Knowledge Services
Assistant, Mersey Care NHS Trust*

3

Everyone Counts: Supporting the needs of diverse users HLG Study Day

Rachel Gick, Salford

4

Feel the fear and do it anyway!

Margaret Halstead
Library Service Manager, North Cumbria
Library & Web Services

5

Dear Editor

Chris Thornton
Trust Library Services Manager
Central Manchester & Manchester
Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust

5

Hello Everyone

Sarah Owen, Library Technician, Wigan

5

Library in the Learner Market Place

Rini Banerjee and Colette King
CMMC Library Services

6

Medical Terminology for Non-Clinical Staff

Rachel Gick, Salford

7

New Starter

Catherine Deering, Assistant Librarian
National Primary Care Research and
Development Centre

7

Getting to grips with KSF

Mary Hill, Stockport

8

What we like most about the HLG

*Lisa Anderson, Eileen Hume and Frances
Dowse, Wirral Hospital NHS Trust*

10

Predicting the future

Steve Glover, Christie Hospital

11

Allis Conference

16th May 2006

This was my first attendance at an Allis Conference and I found it both interesting and enjoyable. The title was "Hunter or gatherer? – partnerships in action". The delegates and presenters came from HE, FE and Public Libraries with me as the sole representative from health libraries.

The conference was held at the Woodlands Centre, Chorley. This was a very pleasant setting and we were even able to sit outside at lunchtime. The lunch incidentally was very good, but there were too many choices of sweets for those of us who were tempted to eat more than one!

I enjoyed meeting former colleagues and talking to other library staff from different sectors. I always think that this is the most valuable part of any conference or event – exchanging experiences and ideas with others.

The morning sessions presented by Ann and Fiona from East Lancashire concentrated on the marketing of library services and explained the title "Hunter or gatherer?" Apparently research has shown that men are usually hunters and go straight to what they are looking for using signage and plans. Women on the other hand will usually browse the shelves selecting more than they came specifically for. For them displays and seating areas work well.

Lancashire Libraries are looking at the appearance of their libraries both from the outside and the initial impressions inside. The idea is to de-clutter the entrances and make it clear that it is a library with certain services

on offer. To this end they are removing a lot of notices especially negative ones like "No mobile phones" and moving information about local societies and events away from the entrance into the main part of the library.

We were shown examples of the changes made to Colne Library where Fiona works. It certainly looked a lot smarter especially from the outside. I shall certainly look at our notice boards and change the appearance of the displays I put on in the library.

After the presentations we were divided into small groups to look at some different libraries and discuss what we might do to improve them.


After lunch we moved on to the partnership part of the day. There were three presentations. The first was given by Sarah Eatwell from Brighton University, who talked about the University Centre set up in Hastings. This centre runs courses by various universities and colleges from the region, so that students can live at home. The Learning Resource Centre opened in 2004.

The second presentation was given by Dawn McLoughlin from Edge Hill, who talked about how they have involved the local schools in the college. There are more part-time students and those doing the Foundation Year of degree courses. They would also like the local community to become more involved and use the facilities out of term time e.g. in using the College's TV studio to produce programmes. The staff of the learning centre are also doing volunteer work e.g. at Martin Mere

Wildfowl & Wetland Trust.

The last presentation was given jointly by Julie Hitchen from UCLAN and Margaret Phillips from Runshaw College. They talked about VALNOW, which is a partnership between HE and FE. The students at various FE colleges including Runshaw are supported by UCLAN Library & Information staff both with book loans and other information needs.

The final part of the day was when we split into 4 groups to discuss further ideas for collaboration. It was thought that more visits to libraries in different sectors would be useful including use of the shadowing scheme, which is available to ALLIS members. The TV studio at Edge Hill was offered for use by local libraries.

Altogether it was an enjoyable as well as useful day. If you have an opportunity to attend any Allis events I would recommend going if only for the networking opportunities. It also looks good in your Professional Development folder and in your CV! 

Kay Bankier

Assistant Librarian
Education Centre
Royal Preston Hospital
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Carnival Fun!

On Monday 22nd May 2006, Mersey Care NHS Trust held its annual promotional event, encouraging life-long learning.

The Trust's Learning and Development Strategy is "Each One Teach One" (which is based on the responsibility of everybody to both learn and to teach others). This year's event was called the "Creative Carnival". The emphasis was on all things creative and fun that aided the learning process for both staff and service users. Activities ranged from games, painting, learning to play drums, massage, fancy dress, as well as the serious business of promoting projects and initiatives, such as The Mental Health Consortium, the work of the Asperger's Team, a scheme to identify service users with an acquired brain injury within secure units, and of course, spreading awareness of the library service offered within the Trust.

To promote our Library Service, we decided to use an idea which we read about on the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council (MLA) website called "Inspired Learning for All" (www.inspiredlearningforall.gov.uk). This project aims to discover and promote how libraries, museums and archives can be accessible, inclusive and enjoyable to all through education. They use a system of General Learning Outcomes which are measured using 5 key areas:

- Knowledge and Understanding
- Skills
- Attitudes and Values

- Enjoyment, Inspiration, Creativity
- Activity, Behaviour and Progression

To tie in with the Creative Carnival we endeavoured to use the MLA idea and create a fun exercise, which produced some fantastic results. Using brightly coloured paper, we covered 5 flip-charts to represent the 5 areas above. We then took some post-it notes in the same colours, and asked people to write down any anecdotes, stories, experiences, or anything they felt they could express and place it in one of the 5 areas relating to the library world – whether positive or negative. The exercise wasn't restricted to Mersey Care Knowledge & Library Service, or even to NHS or academic libraries (though they could be if people wished to), but instead asked people to write about any library they had used at any time in their lives.

It was a popular exercise which many staff, service users and carers took part in. Post-it results ranged from the serious observations such as "helped me to improve my search skills", and "improved my I.T. skills", to fun ones like "I met my first love in a library", and "I like going to storytime with my little sister". Some people even drew pictures or wrote single words such as "Fines!" and "Sssshhhh!!"


The carnival ran from 10 am – 4pm, and in that time we received well over 100 comments / pictures / anecdotes. Whilst some of these were lighthearted and in keeping with the carnival day, we also learned some valuable things about how library users see the library and the services libraries offer, and will be able to use this information in our future library

evaluations.

Finally, we held a library treasure hunt! This wasn't a treasure hunt in the conventional sense, but one in which users seek out nuggets of information about the library service through a questionnaire which they are given. This is great for giving new library users an introduction to their new library environment. Examples of the questions used are:

- What are the library's opening hours?
- Find a guide printed on green paper and make a note of this
- Find the words "watch" and "media" together. Where are they located?
- Locate a copy of "Nursing Times" and photocopy the contents page
- Locate a book called "XXX" with classification number 123.456

We also used this opportunity to ask users to fill in the online LibQual survey (a National pilot to assess the quality of library services). Small prizes of chocolates and book tokens added an extra incentive and encouraged people to fill them in. This allows users to learn about the library whilst also making it more enjoyable.

Great fun was had by all, and we felt we had had a productive day. We wanted to share the experience as it might give other libraries some ideas of creating an awareness of their own services, in ways which are unconventional, and therefore attract more attention. 

Dawn McGowan
Knowledge Services Assistant
Mersey Care NHS Trust

Everyone Counts

Supporting the needs of diverse users HLG Study Day

BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND INSTITUTE, 17 MARCH 2006

Attended by Rachel Gick

I was grateful to receive sponsorship to attend this study day and provide here a summary of what I learned from the presentations given in the morning and the workshop.

The conference explored the impact of providing library services to support Everyone Counts, the widening participation in learning strategy within the NHS. The presentations explored the ways in which the needs of 'non-traditional' library users can be catered for. The presentations generally took the form of case-study reports, which are invaluable for understanding the effect of widening access to library services in practical terms. Although two presentations related to London, other regions were represented (Yorkshire and Shropshire). Pauline Blagden's presentation discussed the implications of implementing the Widening Participation agenda specifically in terms of service development and staff training.

Anne Garvey began the study day with a wide-ranging and thought-provoking discussion of the definitions, implications and challenges represented by the entire 'equality and diversity' issue, which is a strand of the widening participation strategy. Her discussion related specifically to students in the H.E. sector (using South Bank University, London as a case-study) who are potentially NHS employees of the future. Of particular significance was discussion of the impact of students' previous learning and practical experiences on the provision of learning and training. Clearly, there are implications for the educational component of our work as librarians.

The presentations that followed discussed librarians' solutions to achieving and supporting widening participation. Marie Carter's fascinating presentation

detailed how librarians and Ambulance Service staff collaborated to provide library services to cater for the needs of ambulance staff. Delivering a library service to this group of users presented a number of practical and administrative challenges, such as where to locate PC workstations for access to electronic resources, how to deliver information skills tuition given the nature of ambulance service work and how to publicise the service. It was clear from presentations about two other library services – one at York Hospital (Helen Outhwaite) and the other at Guy's & St



Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust – that the work of NHS libraries is extremely diverse. The library at York Hospital, for example, was engaged in a project to support the needs of support staff, who accounted for virtually 50% of the total workforce in 2004. Among them were buyers, pharmacy and clerical staff. The library service provided resources and services which were related to specific skill areas, together with careers information. The library at Guy's & St Thomas's appeared to differ markedly from the 'traditional' service with which I am familiar. What had been a leisure library has been developed in order to support the Improving Working Lives agenda, providing access for staff to the hospital intranet and careers information in an extremely attractive physical environment.

After lunch, Pauline Blagden focussed on the implications of the Everyone Counts agenda on NHS library services and training of library staff for new roles. The presentation was based on her experience as Project Manager for the Developing Libraries Project in three SHA areas. This project involved conducting a needs analysis to underpin a service plan and a strategy for training staff. Pauline and Helen's presentations highlighted that the widening participation agenda in the NHS potentially presented the opportunity for libraries to work in collaboration with other parts of the organisation (such as T&D) and could perhaps raise the profile of the library within the organisation. There were also examples of cross-sectoral working with public libraries (Marie Carter, Liz Fairclough) and HE libraries (Helen Outhwaite).

The workshop, which concluded the study day, allowed us to explore the implications in small groups of supporting Everyone Counts in library services. Each discussion topic was a key theme (among them, staff development and training) arising from the presentations. Each group was led by one of the speakers. A brief summary of our conclusions was given by a member of each group.

It was fascinating to learn how library services around the country had adapted and expanded their services in order to meet the demands of 'non-traditional' users. It seems vital - to me, at least - that, at the very least, awareness of the issues raised during the study day exists. Access to resources, new services/stock offered and the training of staff are all crucial for supporting the needs of all users and particularly 'non-traditional' ones. And, yet again, events such as this study day allow one to take a 'step back'; in other words, to view my activities from a wider perspective and exchange views and share experiences with librarians working elsewhere. [BN](#)

FEEL THE FEAR...

...and do it anyway!

How many of us say for our accreditation, that we will be starting Critical Appraisal Training soon – and then put it off!

In North Cumbria we did that - David had spotted it – but decided that we really did need to do something about it, as it had been identified on a training needs survey we had carried out, as one of the main requirements in the area.


I have been on several 'Training the trainers' courses in the past, and Pippa Orr and I had both been on Debra Thornton's session, so I volunteered to put something together. Debra was reassuring about the amount of statistics that was necessary to facilitate a course. I think this is the particular bit we are all nervous about.

We also wanted to involve Social Care who had also identified a need for such training. Catherine Beverley, Knowledge Manager, Adult Social Care Directorate, Cumbria County Council, has worked at SCHARR in the past, so we hoped that her help would also be very useful – particularly on the stats!




She wasn't able to join in for the first workshop in April, and we only had a few participants, but that allowed us to use it as a dry run, and our next session in July is fully booked. We have another in November, and

intend to run a quarterly full-day session, with perhaps some more specifically targeted sessions. Catherine's input and comments from those at the first course have led to some changes, and it will be interesting to see how the courses developed and how well they are received.

My advice would be to go ahead and try it. You may find that you enjoy it more than you expected. 

Margaret Halstead
Library Service Manager
North Cumbria Library &
Web Services

Dear Editor,

If we are going down the route of league tables (LHNNK-UP Issue 21, Spring 2006) it will make the annual stats return a lot easier in future.....we'll all be tempted to put 'not known'. (Only joking, Shân!) 


Chris Thornton

Trust Library Services Manager
Central Manchester &
Manchester Children's University Hospitals
NHS Trust

Hello everyone.

I'm Sarah Owen and I'd like to introduce myself as the new Library Technician at Wigan. I started working at the end of January and I'm really enjoying it and so far love coming to work!

My background is in public libraries so I'm looking forward to getting to grips with the intricacies of health libraries. I worked at Bolton Libraries for thirteen years in various capacities from Readers' Advisor to Resources Librarian. I

relocated to South Carolina for 2 years because of my husband's job where I volunteered at the local library in between looking after my four year old twin boys. We came back to Wigan last year and now I've found the perfect job; a new challenge in a new environment, great hours and wonderful people to work with- what could be better? 

New Starter

LIBRARY LEARNER MARKET PLACE

Rini Banerjee and Colette King
CMMC Library Services

An Adult Learners Fair was run by Organisational Development and Training on 23 May 2006. The aim was to inform staff about training courses offered by the Trust, including NVQs, IT skills and KSF/portfolio building.

There were a variety of stalls – KSF, basic IT Skills, Data Protection and Literacy and Numeracy. Freebies like sweets, post-it notes, bookmarks and key rings were available and a chance to win a free holiday from Global Holidays. Remember Blockbusters from TV? ('I'll have a P please, Bob'.) We got familiar with the theme tune as training staff played the game all day with whoever would join in.

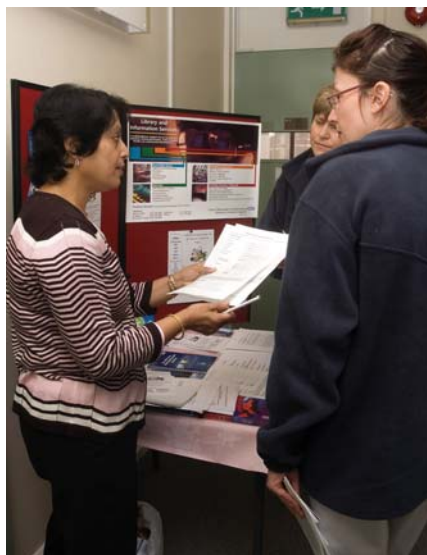
The library stall was the first port of call placed right at the entrance, which enabled us to speak to most people. Our focus was on library skills training and on how to access electronic resources. Although we could not compete with Costco, who were giving away free cakes, we did have some sweets, bookmarks and lots of flyers and handouts. We also gave people a short learning styles quiz to take away, which fitted in well with the theme of the day.

By mid morning, the whole place was buzzing with a wide range of staff, from senior managers to domestics. There were people from medical genetics, colposcopy, theatres, HR, clinical audit pharmacy, midwives, biomedical scientists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, heart centre nurses, dental school staff, secretaries, clinical coders, elderly care staff, people doing courses, people mentoring students...



Colette...

set up. (seriously, they'd be quite keen on this)



and Rini with participants

About half the people we talked to let us show them online resources on NLH - many had never heard of this and were pleased to find that there was useful information on there for them. It became a challenge to find something online for each staff group; we were successful most of the time, although I don't know when the secretaries' Specialist Library will be

The day became more interesting when an official photographer appeared and took action shots of us talking, showing people things on the computer, or pointing at significant notices. We hope to be featured in the Trust magazine, looking knowledgeable and intelligent.

One of the outcomes from the fair has been contact with a wide range of staff including some groups who haven't used the library before. We've been able to address their diverse needs and raise awareness about the varied services provided by the library to support KSF and evidence-based medicine. We must have been quite convincing on the day, as some staff turned up to join the library and booked training sessions.

Judging by comments on the day and those received since, most people found our presence very useful and we hope they will use the library service in the future. 

Medical Terminology for Non-Clinical Staff

26 April 2006, North Manchester Hospital Library

One of the most interesting and enjoyable aspects of working in health librarianship is building up knowledge of a particular subject area.

As we all know, most medical terms are derived from Latin and Greek. Armed with a smattering of Latin and knowledge acquired in-post I arrived at North Manchester General Hospital on a sunny spring morning along with fourteen fellow NHS library staff to gain insight into the rudiments of medical terminology.


The study day, which was aimed specifically at non-clinicians, covered the following:

- An overview of the structure and functions of the human body (anatomy and physiology). Along the way, we looked at associated clinical procedures.
- How to 'decode' the language of medicine. This process required us to split up a word into its constituent parts: the **prefix** (not always present, such as poly-); the **root** (the part of the body being described, such as neur-) and **suffix** (which tells us what is happening) – thus, 'polyneuritis' means 'inflammation of many nerves'. We also learned that vowels are sometimes added to stems in order to make pronunciation easier. The letter 'h' is also treated in this way.

Refreshingly, our trainer, Lucy Griffiths (a trained nurse), did not use PowerPoint. Instead, she gave us a whirlwind tour of anatomy and physiology using a flipchart for explanatory diagrams and breaking-up associated terminology, together with the workbooks distributed to each of us. The workbooks contain questions and diagrams, which we completed after learning first about the structure of medical terminology

in general and afterwards, terminology for each system of the body. Her delivery of the material was excellent. She used examples from her own experience as a nurse to enliven what could be potentially rather dry subject matter. Her anecdotes and explanations have made many a term stick in my head! The use of different learning styles also worked very well: explanations, labelling diagrams and 'decoding' terms. We went away somewhat exhausted from such an intensive learning experience but having enjoyed the process immensely. There was an awful lot to fit into a single day and, speaking personally, the last part of the course seemed particularly demanding!

Feedback demonstrated that the study day had been a success, both in terms of the overall usefulness of the subject matter and the skills of the trainer. More specifically, attendees also commented that they felt they would be able to conduct a more effective literature search as a result of attending this course. It was acknowledged that there was an awful lot to fit into one day, but nearly two-thirds of delegates said that all areas covered had been useful. Speaking on a personal level, I approach medical terminology in an analytical way as a matter of course after attending this course. This helps me to understand scope notes in databases more readily and I feel better equipped to perform literature searches and deliver user training. The workbook we used during the day contains useful information which I refer to; the exercises we completed, anatomy diagrams and also, tables of prefixes, roots and suffixes.

Finally, I can also say that the course has made the medical terminology book I was given in November seem a lot less daunting. In common with all effective and enjoyable courses, it has whetted my appetite to improve my knowledge of the subject. I would recommend the course to all medical library staff (as stated in the feedback) and I am grateful for the opportunity to attend it. To a person, all delegates found the course useful and felt the day had been worthwhile. 

Rachel Gick
Salford – Hope Hospital

NEW STARTER!

I now have the good fortune to be working as an assistant (part time) to Ross McNally in the NPCRDC in the University of Manchester. I am supporting Ross in all her library work, and disseminating news etc around the Centre. She is a superb colleague and I am very lucky to be working with her.

Previously, I was librarian at the Donald Mason Library of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. The DML is a tiny library, but is highly specialised, being one of only two tropical medicine libraries in the UK - the other is in London. During my time there I was very privileged to meet users from all over the world, whose familiarity with information sources, and proficiency in English, varied a great deal from person to person. During my time there I converted the catalogue from cards to online, (a character forming experience!!), and went through a complete physical refurbishment of the library, which is still showing in

my roots!!) I have experience of devising information literacy training, information strategy, catalogue conversion, and webpage creation, plus shelving, cleaning the loo, emptying bins and generally being a sole professional for twenty years!

I hope to meet LIHNN members gradually and look forward very much to benefiting from the experience and expertise of this group. Many thanks and all the best,

Catherine Deering

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Getting to grips with KSF

When the Curriculum Task group formed back in the spring of 2005, getting to grips with KSF was not at the front of our agenda, in fact it was not on our agenda at all.

Initially we found out what courses were being offered across Greater Manchester and if we could come up with a core programme. It quickly became evident that this was an impossible task – programmes were organised differently; if they had the same name they did not necessarily cover the same material; what one service covered in 2 sessions may be covered in 4 by another. So we argued, we went round in circles, we got cross, we went up blind allies, we despaired, we wanted to go home but eventually somebody said the S-word. Skills. A chink of light had crept in. And so we argued, we went round in circles, we got cross, we went up blind allies, we despaired, we definitely wanted to go home but eventually we came up with the following.

All Greater Manchester libraries should offer a core training programme which enables users to acquire the skills to

- Devise a search strategy using a recognised framework eg. PICO
- Apply search techniques to a variety of interfaces
- Appraise a piece of health research

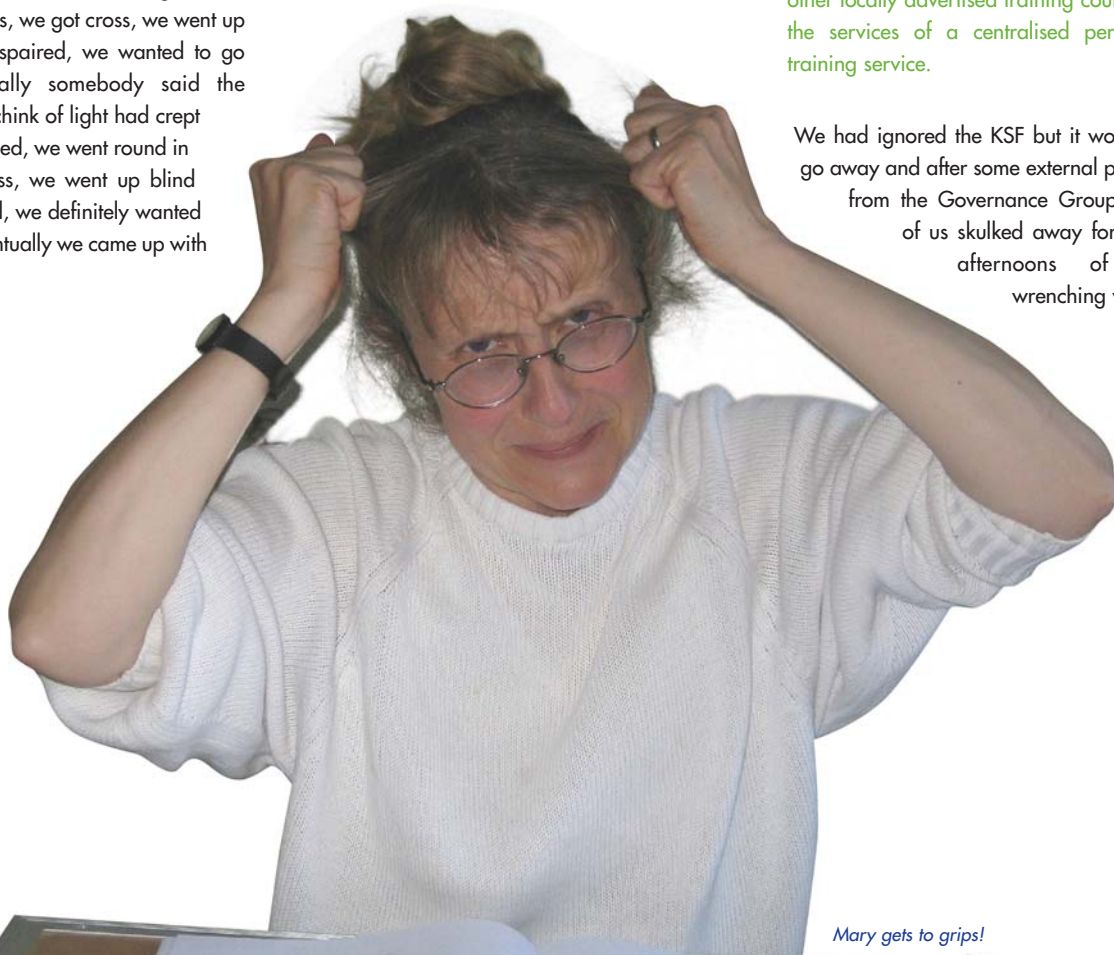
These outcomes should be delivered using the following resources:

- Dialog Databases
- Cochrane Library
- National Library for Health

The above is the **minimum** which should be offered and individual sites may choose additional resources to add to their training programme.

- All users within Greater Manchester should have access to this training from whichever service offers it.
- Training should be advertised via Aditus.
- Any library services that are unable to offer this core training should have access to other locally advertised training courses, or the services of a centralised peripatetic training service.

We had ignored the KSF but it would not go away and after some external pressure from the Governance Group, three of us skulked away for 3 sad afternoons of hair wrenching work.



Mary gets to grips!

We took the programmes offered within Greater Manchester and tried to break these down into relevant skills. We identified 11 skills or skill sets which we then mapped to the KSF dimensions and indicators. Simple!! Library or service managers could now match their programme to the skills and identify the KSF dimensions that they covered. We would have a consistent approach across Greater Manchester with a DOAS effort. The following is a summary of our end document.



We have had some initial comment on the mapping of IK dimensions which would only be used by library staff. However, a review of the first 55 outlines listed alphabetically at one trust indicated that this was not the case as shown in the table, bottom right.

At the moment the complete details are awaiting final approval from the GMHeLP governance group. However, we are happy to share this with everyone to avoid your hair wrenching moments (any suggestion that John Addison's hair today is a result of this particular project are completely untrue). In particular we are hoping that the Trainers Group would like to examine it in detail and provide a verified version that we can use across the North West. [Link](#)

Curriculum
Group:

John Addison
Paula Elliott
David Ellis
Mary Hill
Jean Williams

Hair Wrenching
Sub-group:

John Addison
Paula Elliott
Mary Hill
see above photograph

SKILL		KSF DIMENSIONS	
A	Formulate a search question (eg use PICO, ECLIPSE or other structure = framework?)	IK2-2a IK2-3a HWB8-4a G2-1a G2-4a	IK2-3d G2-3a
B	Know which resources (eg NLH resources) to consult to find high quality, reliable health information	IK2-2b IK2-3b IK3-1b HWB1-2d HWB4-3b HWB5-3b/d HWB7-3b/d	IK2-3d IK3-1c HWB1-3d HWB4-4b HWB5-4b/c HWB7-4b/c
C	Evaluate websites	IK2-2a IK3-1e HWB1-2d	HWB1-3d
D	Select from a hierarchy of information resources the most appropriate to answer specific questions	IK2-3b IK3-3b HWB8-4a	
E	Perform a simple search using keywords (may also contain combining with Boolean operators, use of truncation, wildcard operators and limits)	IK2-2b IK3-1d G2-1a G2-3a G2-4a	
F	Mark, print and email selected records	IK2-2b HWB8-4a	
G	Save a search and run a saved search	IK2-2b G2-3a G2-4a	
H	Perform a complex search using MESH terms (which might include using explode, major descriptors and subheadings to refine the MESH search)	IK2-3a IK2-3d HWB8-4a G2-4a	
I	Create an alert (in a database)	Core 4-3a IK2-4a G2-3a	IK3-4c G2-4a
J	Understand a systematic review and its accompanying statistical, pictorial representations	Core 4-2d HWB5-3b/d HWB7-3b/d	Core 4-3a HWB5-4b/c HWB7-4b/c
K	Critically appraise health research	IK2-3g G2-1a HWB8-4a	G2-3b

Dimension	Roles	Numbers of outlines
IK2	Administration & Management	20
	Nurse / Midwife	12
	Scientific / Technical	9
	Clinical Audit and Governance	4
	Other	3
	Allied Health Professional	2
IK3	Administration & Management	3
	Clinical Audit and Governance	2

"What we like most"

ABOUT THE HLG CONFERENCE 2006

Eileen, Frances and I presented a poster at the HLG Conference 2006. Eileen had submitted an abstract in January 2006 which was accepted for a poster presentation.

She kindly mentioned this to me after I had accepted of the post of Clinical Librarian in February 2006, what an introduction (baptism of fire more like it!) to Wirral NHS Hospital Trust Library Service.

Each of us was privileged to attend the Conference, Eileen funded by the Trust, I was funded by HCLU/LIHNN and Frances (what a clever girl) won one of the two CILIP student sponsored places. (Thank you to all our sponsors!).

Different daily job roles meant each of us gained a different perspective on the conference. In the next edition of LIHNNK-UP, there will be a full write up from the three different perspectives, but for now to whet your appetite this is what we liked most about the Conference...

- The opportunity to network, good company and wine! The interactive sessions making you appreciate that you are on the right track and fitting into the national agendas. (Eileen)
- Spending time during the poster session talking to delegates who are already involved in or about to initiate a Clinical Librarian Service, sharing experiences and ideas. Listening to variety of excellent session speakers and coming away with relevant thought-provoking ideas! (Lisa)
- Picking up ideas for my dissertation while enjoying the buzz of my first conference! (Frances) 



The Winter Gardens



Beach & Pier

Wirral Hospital NHS Trust Library Service poster exhibit



Left to right: Eileen Hume (Head of Trust Library Services), Lisa Anderson (Clinical Librarian) and Frances Dowse (Community Outreach Service Assistant)



LIHNN Librarians at the wine reception

Predicting the future

Hari Seldon and the possibilities of life without CINAHL

Hari Seldon was exceptional at predicting the future ^[1, 2 and 3]. Using his theory of "Psychohistory" he managed to correctly predict the course of human history over a 10,000 year period. At specified periods of crisis, which became known as a "Seldon Crisis", he would appear to the librarians with holographic messages of explanation and guidance. Maybe it is easier to predict the course of the human race over a long period than say a shorter one such as 5 years?

Some things are easy to predict, the sun will rise in the east tomorrow and set in the west. There will be high tide at Liverpool at 11.23am and again at 11.45pm. England footballers will miss 3 out of every 5 penalties in a shoot out. Then things get a bit fuzzier depending on time. Over time the FTSE share index will rise, this is easier to predict over 20 years than over 3 years. So how would the great Hari Seldon have fared on the more unpredictable subject matter of the last 10 years in the NHS libraries?

In the last 10 years a medical student who graduated from Manchester University and got a job in the NHS Manchester area will have been trained to access Medline via OVID and Silver Platter both on CD ROM. This was followed by internet access via Webspirs for the NHS, Ovid for the NHS, Dialog, Aditus, NeLH and finally NLH. He/she probably settled on PubMed when it became free and you did not need to worry about passwords. Similar interfaces have been thrown at nurses who have been fed on CINAHL as the correct database for them. We librarians and clinical tutors have told nurses that to do a comprehensive search they should search CINAHL as well as Medline and EMBASE.

So where are we now oh great Hari? For a new "Seldon crisis" is looming fast on the horizon. CINAHL will not be available via Dialog after March 2008 (date to be confirmed), or through any other interface other than EBSCO who own the database. This means that in order for nurses to continue doing what we have told them is the proper thing to do somebody in the centre of core content or NLH has to pay EBSCO or find an alternative. What would an alternative to CINAHL look like and how would NHS nurses receive such an idea?

Clinical Knowledge Summaries. BMJ publishing group must not have read the NLH website as they think it is being renewed (telephone conversation with BMJ Publishing Group 7/8/06). It is also not clear what is happening with access to the Cochrane Library via the Wiley interface? The latest letter posted on the NLH website was posted there on 12 April 2006 but not much news has been added or updated since. Added to this list of uncertainty and turmoil is the NHS Copyright licence and Ben Toth himself, all gone quicker than a Ferrari at Monza!

Change is good and as Darwin pointed out necessary for survival in changing environments. However a bit of stability would be welcomed by most health librarians who have had to endure the stress of Agenda for Change and KSF in addition to all the information related changes mentioned in the previous paragraphs Did I mention the possibility of Athens? Enough for now I think.

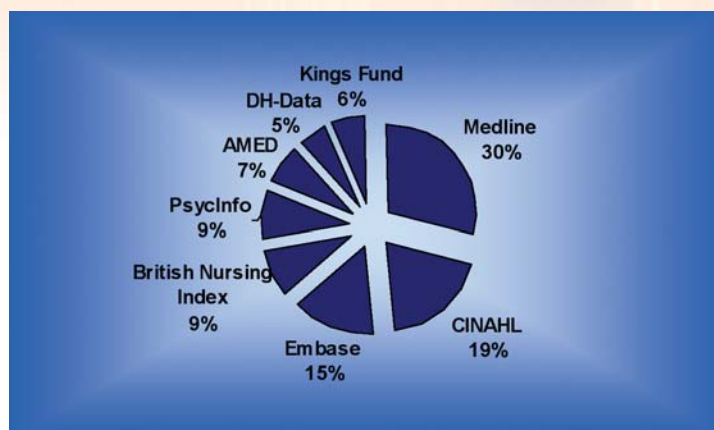



Fig.1 Breakdown of database use (2005-2006 NCC Annual Report)

Facts of the matter are that approximately 24% of core content users are from the nursing staff group and this represents the largest staff group using National Core Content (NCC) databases. CINAHL is the second highest used database after Medline (see fig.1).

To compound the "Seldon crisis" Zetoc is about to go to be replaced by an A-Z service not specifically procured to supply Tables of Contents which happened to be a freebie extra. It remains to be seen whether the new product is as comprehensive as the British Library's Zetoc product. Clinical Evidence is under threat of being replaced. The NLH website states that the current contract ends in September 2006 and will be replaced by

OK, I have to go now to induct our new junior doctors, maybe I'll tell them about our opening hours as they have not changed over the last 10 years. 

Steve Glover

Summer Issue Editor
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1. Asimov, I. Foundation.
New York: 1951
2. Asimov, I. Foundation and Empire.
New York: 1952
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notes for contributors

1. Articles and news items are welcome from all members of Lihnn, including support staff and staff in higher education institutions.

Lihnn members are actively encouraged to write up accounts of events and courses attended. Articles on new developments and projects successfully managed are also welcome.

2. News items and short pieces, which can range from factual to amusing, are also welcome.
3. All items can be submitted in print or electronic format.

please abide by the following points:

Don't forget your name, location, title of article and date of article.

All acronyms should be written out in full for the first occasion they are used in the text. Please give full details of events, courses and conferences attended. This should include:

- The name of event and location
- Date of event
- Name of organizing or sponsoring body
- Details of how support materials can be obtained (where necessary)
- Full references to any published reports, articles, etc.

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