

Reflection on the CILIP Health Libraries Group (HLG) conference

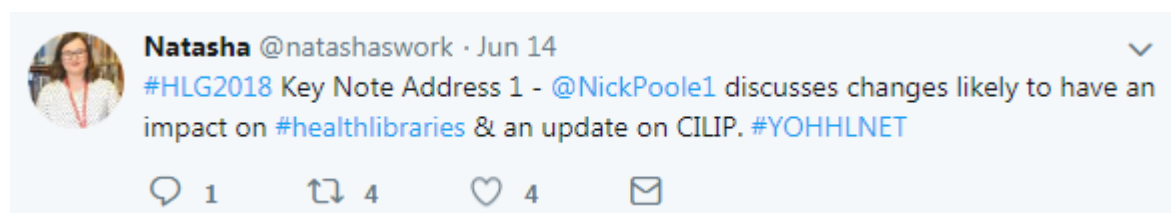
Thursday 14th- Friday 15th June 2018

This was my first time attending a conference and if I'm honest I wasn't really sure what to expect, but I was eager to find out! The two day conference offered a jam packed programme featuring keynote speakers, pick and mix parallel sessions and even health and wellbeing activities too.

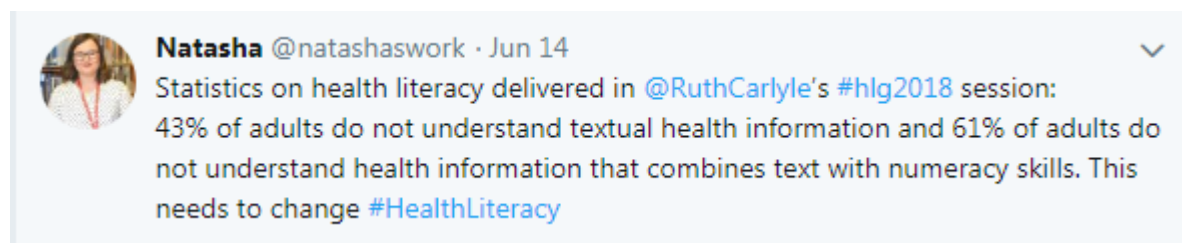
I arrived at the conference early on Thursday morning, ready and raring to go. The conference was officially opened by Sarah Hennessy (HLG Co-Chair) and then it was time for us to hear from day one's keynote speakers.



The first keynote speaker was Nick Poole, who provided an insightful update into what CILIP had been up to since his last update at HLG 2016 and what was next on the CILIP agenda. Closely followed by the second keynote speaker Dr Mark Murphy, who spoke passionately about his work in encouraging clinicians to source evidence-based material and share decisions with patients (which I imagine was music to the ears of the many Library and Information staff sat in the audience!)



The majority of the day was then spent in our chosen parallel sessions. My stand out parallel session of day one was: 'Introduction to health literacy: awareness, skills and resources' presented by Ruth Carlyle. Although I already had some understanding of this topic, Ruth's session helped me to gain a more thorough understanding of health literacy and most importantly its day-to-day impacts. During the session I was also introduced to a range of tools, resources and techniques to support people with low levels of health literacy, which I plan to look into in more detail.



I got myself in a bit of a muddle when it came to parallel session three and I ended up attending a different parallel session to the one I'd booked onto (oops...sorry HLG event team). The session I attended on the day was 'High tech and low tech approaches to interactive information skills

teaching' presented by YiWen Hon and was my second stand out session of day one. This session was informative, interactive and introduced me to the wide range of high and low tech tools available to help make teaching that little bit different (my favourite of which was Kahoot!)



Natasha @natashaswork · Jun 14

Kahoot was a great interactive resource. #HLG2018



After a couple more parallel sessions and refreshments it was time to head to the university halls to get ready for the mid-conference dinner (which was very tasty I must say) and another jam packed conference day.



Natasha @natashaswork · Jun 14

Enjoyed day 1 of #HLG2018. Looking forward to the conference dinner tonight & day 2 tomorrow 😊

After an official welcome to day two of the conference, it was time to hear from day two's keynote speakers. The first keynote speakers were Sue Lacey Bryant and Louise Goswami who provided an informative insight into the #AMillionDecisions campaign, the impact the campaign has had so far and the next steps.

This was closely followed by a keynote address from Andy Wright and Rachel Heydecker who spoke about the Carnegie UK Trust, the Wellcome Trust and the Society of Chief Librarians 'Engaging Libraries' pilot scheme. It was great to hear the many varied health and wellbeing activities that have been happening in public libraries with the help of the engaging libraries scheme.



Natasha @natashaswork · Jun 15

Interesting to find out more about public libraries health offer #engaginglibs #HLG2018



Keynotes for day two over and done with, it was time to head to our chosen parallel sessions. My stand out parallel sessions of day two were: The 'Social media and collaborative tools knowledge café' hosted by Holly Case Wyatt, Tom Roper and Emma Aldrich and '#ukmedlibs: Twitter chats and

continuing professional development' hosted by Tom Roper, Holly Case Wyatt and Samantha Burgess.

As you may be able to tell from the many Tweets embedded within this piece I'm a big fan of using social media and participating in the knowledge café was a good opportunity to chat to colleagues and find out more about how other services are using the various social media tools available or may do so in the future. I was pleased to pick up a few new tips and tricks too.



I've often seen #ukmedlibs Tweets popping up on my Twitter feed, but I'd never actually participated in one of the Twitter chats so it was interesting to find out more about how they work. There was a live Twitter chat during the session, which I used as an opportunity to find out how I, as a paraprofessional, could participate/add to the #ukmedlibs discussion



It was also interesting to find out more about the creation of the Health Information Week 2018 toolkit, which I have been referring to frequently when preparing resources for local events. I also enjoyed hearing from Steven Glover and Michelle Dutton about 'A new city wide trust for Manchester: a tale of merging two library services' and from Liz Hunwick about 'The Essex Libraries Project: managing library and knowledge services across three NHS Acute Trusts'.

I would like to finish my piece by saying another big thank you to YOHLNet for providing sponsorship for me to be able to attend HLG 2018; I wouldn't have been able to do it without 😊

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